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## National Chief clarifies AFN position on governance

The National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Matthew Coon Come, expressed serious concern with the Department of Indian Affairs funding cuts and the Minister's comments about the political agenda of the AFN.

"These comments are misleading and reflect a lack of understanding of the role, mandate and composition of the Assembly of First Nations. The Assembly of First Nations is a forum through which all First Nations leaders express their opinions and comments before deciding on a course of action. We know the Minister was disappointed that his Governance process was not supported by the Chiefs. Yet, it shows that when it comes to accountability, political or otherwise, First Nations have developed a viable process. The leadership came to a decision in a manner that is very much the product of this democratic process. There is no "closure" in our process. There is open and honest debate that precedes an open and free vote," stated National Chief Matthew Coon Come.

The Assembly of First Nations is the most representative and accountable Aboriginal organization in Canada. The National Chief is elected by the 633 First Nation Chiefs each of whom is in turn elected by their own communities. The AFN Executive Committee is also elected by the Chiefs in each of AFN's ten regions. These Chiefs provide the mandate and direction for the National Chief and Executive to engage government on fundamental policy issues that affect First Nation communities. In the absence of a clear consensus, the Assembly of First Nations is guided by a majority vote. In the case of both the federal governance initiative and the recent call for the Minister's resignation, the Assembly's leadership must respect the decisions of the majority. Minister Nault obtained a Cabinet mandate to proceed on governance.

"We respect the parliamentary process and would hope that he too would respect First Nations mandates and processes," said the National Chief.

"It is a fact that the DIAND consultation meetings on the governance initiative have been poorly attended by First Nations peoples from the communities, the same people who will be most affected by the changes to the Indian Act. While many agree that the Act needs to be changed, this should not be done through unilateral government action. This dispute

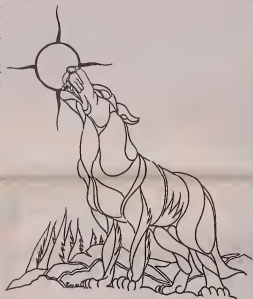
can only be resolved when the government of Canada respects and deals with duly mandated leadership of First Nations. The people have shown that they are not interested in the government's proposed approach to change," added National Chief Coon Come.

"It should be noted that the Confederacy of Nations meeting directed the Assembly of First Nations to begin developing work plans aimed at addressing the governance issue in a manner that takes into account the need to improve socioeconomic conditions, the treaty relationship and the land/revenue base required to support governance," concluded National Chief Coon Come.

Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs further stated, "I firmly believe that the unilateral action of Minister Nault does not deal with the real issues of First Nation governance. The matters of leadership, accountability, election reform and our communities' legal status are fundamentals of our inherent right to self-determination. Specifically, if Minister Nault runs through the FNG and makes amendments to the Indian Act, our right to self-government will be dangerously eroded. In order to exercise our inherent right to self-determination, we must have true self-government. Such rights are protected by Section 35 of Canada's Constitution Act, and have been affirmed in court decisions like *Delgamuukw* and international covenants like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

The UBCIC reiterates its full support for the Assembly of First Nations resolution passed at the December 4-6 Confederacy of Nations Meeting in Ottawa calling for the outright rejection of the FNG process. The Confederacy of Nations resolution resolutely and overwhelmingly reaffirms the "First Nations' complete and unequivocal rejection of Minister Nault's First Nation Governance Initiative."

"The UBCIC will continue to vigorously defend our rights from any legislative attempt to restrict and redefine our relationship with the Government of Canada," concluded Chief Phillip. "Nault's poorly orchestrated FNG must be replaced with a process based on good faith and with a credible form of consultation involving all First Nations people. Such unilateral, government sponsored initiatives only continue to reveal the federal government's archaic approach to dealing with First Nations of this land."



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# Expanded land management has limited benefits

by Brian Savage

Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault has announced that the First Nations Land Management Act will be open to as many as 80 First Nations that have applied for consideration under the new terms of the bill. Presently there are 14 bands covered by the Act, which was first passed in 1999, after much criticism by the Alliance party for giving too much power to Native bands.

Prominent leader Chief Bill Wilson says the Act is a "good idea" for bands stalled by Department of Indian Affairs bureaucracy in their attempts to gain greater financial control of their lands when they propose relatively simple economic development initiatives.

"I don't think it represents a great deal of achievement," says the outspoken Native leader. "But there are a number of bands that will benefit. Instead of having 12 or 13 year waits, they'll be able to pass their own bylaws and manage their own lands."

While some see the extension of the Land Management Act as a further indication that the Indian Act will be drastically changed if not erased in the near future, Wilson remains sceptical.

"I don't see that at all. It's sort of a loosening of the chains upon Aboriginal people in the communities but the Act still remains and the Department of Indian Affairs still controls the money. What this really answers for those bands interested in it, is the opportunity to develop their lands in a more expeditious manner and I applaud that. But what we really need is to scrap the Act and give the \$4.7 billion directly to the Indians and get these people off our back."

Though Nault has been quoted in the media as saying that the Indian Act is "gone", to be replaced by sweeping changes to band elections, accountability and forms of governance, Wilson says the opposite is happening.

"If his intentions are to get rid of the Indian Act, which I hope is true, he's moving completely in the wrong direction, because the Department of Indian Affairs' budget has increased almost 40 percent in the past five years." For now, says Wilson, the problem continues to be the economic stranglehold the Department of Indian Affairs maintains on Native communities. "The reality is 90 to 95 percent of all the economy in Native communities comes from the Department of Indian Affairs. If you're tied to someone for your living, obviously you're not going to criticize them a great deal, and unfortunately that's where we are. The fact is, in some cases, almost 100 percent of Indian people in communities are unemployed and the only option they have is welfare or handouts from the Department of Indian Affairs. It's no surprise to me that many chiefs, even against their own will, cooperate with the Department of Indian Affairs because they don't have any other options."

"They put us on reserves, and the white people didn't want. That's why in B.C. we're trying to negotiate treaties that would allow us to access renewable natural resources, to fuel our own economy, but we're a long, long way from there unfortunately."

Wilson says the long delay in talks, now at eight months, at the 51 tables in the BC Treaty Process is taking a toll on the bands involved.

"We're running up a huge tab of money that we have to pay back. We're the only group of the three parties that has to pay the money back and that concerns me a great deal because there are some bands that are impoverished to begin with and are impoverishing themselves even further by borrowing money against the proposed panacea that doesn't seem to be too soon on the horizon."

If the majority of First Nations are not achieving their financial aims and are instead going further into debt as government stalls talks, who is the winner? For Wilson the answer to that question is easy.

"The only ones making money out of this are white people, as usual," he declares bluntly. "The white consultants and lawyers."

Wilson says the best outcome would be "to see independent Aboriginal people with their own economies generating their own wealth, paying for their own self-



government, because you're never going to be free if someone else gives you money. "If we don't have our own renewable natural resource base to generate our own wealth, we'll be slaves forever."

For the First Nations like the Westbank, and the Kamloops, the Land Management Act will bring some needed improvement and control over their land, says Wilson, but the bigger picture remains.

"I've seen people wait 13 years for economic approval by Indian Affairs for development projects. I think they're simply designed as police officers to control Aboriginal people to make sure that they don't develop."

Wilson adds that while Indian Affairs Minister Nault may want to make changes, the bureaucracy of the department weighs against him. There is even admission on the part of the government that only 40 percent of the budget reaches Indians. The rest is spent on salaries, company cars, expense accounts and other funds, says Wilson, so while the Land Management Act might show some progress, "the big progress would be to let Aboriginal people be free, get this monkey off our backs and allow us to build our own lives."

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# Reconciliation Conference focuses on restoring rights

by Heather Andrews Miller

Vancouver is the place to be from March 19 to 22 when the conference entitled *A Just and Lasting Reconciliation: First Nations and Government* is held in the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

"The conference comes at a particular time in history and in the evolution of First Nations' relations with other Canadians," explains Dr. Frank Cassidy, conference chair. "Somehow we've come to a turning point. What had been a growing awareness of Aboriginal rights and of what actually happened historically seems to be fading from the minds of Canadians." Cassidy is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Assembly of First Nations-British Columbia (AFN-BC) and the University of Victoria's School of Public Administration. The Conference Convenor is Satsan (Herb George), the AFN-BC Vice Chief. Satsan was one of the major forces behind the historic *Delgamuukw* judgement of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1997.

"Canadians generally seem to be returning to a much narrower way of viewing things, and the awareness that we'd gained is actually receding," Cassidy continues. "An example is Robert Nault's First Nations Governance initiative. The Indian Act is long overdue for an overhaul, but it wouldn't have been imaginable ten years ago for a Minister of Indian Affairs to envision that such extensive revisions to the Act could be accomplished without the agreement from many First Nations that it was based on a proper consultative process. The consultations to date have been limited and they did not start until much of the framework for the initiative was in place."

The British Columbia referendum is another example of the growing deterioration in relations between Aboriginal peoples and the governments of the Crown. "The new provincial government should have been sitting down with the First Nations in B.C. and admitting that the treaty process hadn't been going very well. It should show a willingness to consult together, to work it out," Cassidy says. "Instead the questions the new premier is asking British Columbians appear to project an image that ordinary Canadians have to be protected from Aboriginal peoples and the government is the body that has to do



Art by Red Owl  
(1995) Nukwina

that," he says.

In an effort to forge a more positive path, the delegates at the conference will talk about the need to build a new relationship, to arrive at a new reconciliation, and to come to an awareness of a new and more just way of seeing things.

"The legal reality of treaty making in the history of this country must be based on the rights of Aboriginal peoples," Cassidy states. Focusing on the ideas of recognition and respect, conference participants will engage in an intense discussion over the three days about their experiences and the ways they can design a reconciliation that's not based on assimilation. "We need to take stock of where we are and where we are going," Cassidy suggests.

Conference organizers hope each participant takes new ideas back home and shares what is happening in other places in Canada and the world — the USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Based on how the Indigenous peoples in other countries have pursued their reconciliation goals, the conference hopes to explore the possible nature and ways of achieving reconciliation in Canada.

It is hoped the various governments in Canada, the provinces and the territories will learn how they can join with First Nations to engage in efforts to achieve a just and lasting reconciliation. Likewise, it is hoped that First Nations in Canada will be provided with opportunities to explore concrete steps for the achievement of reconciliation at the community, regional and national levels.

"This conference is an open conference and if gov-

ernment representatives would like to attend they are more than welcome," adds Cassidy.

The University of Victoria and its School of Public Administration have a long-standing commitment to Aboriginal governments as an important dimension of government in Canada. The University has been centring courses around First Nations governance for many years, in partnership with First Nations. "We have worked with governments other than First Nations too, and have run many different types of events. This is our seventh major conference on First Nations issues," he explains.

Cassidy lives permanently in Gitksan territory in northwestern British Columbia and has been involved with the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en as well as other First Nations since the 1970s. "I've learned a lot about First Nations — from the people, not from books," Cassidy says. He has seen first-hand how the people were treated and how they feel about that treatment.

"This has all had a profound impact on me. These issues are very personal issues for me. If we are to have the kind of Canada we want, we have to come to grips with the past and emerge with a full awareness of where we have been and where we can go. We need to spend our time making Canada a better place in which to live," he concludes.

Further information about the conference can be obtained by calling 250-479-9994 and talking with Maire Consulting which is organizing the conference on behalf of the AFN-BC and the University of Victoria.

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# Happy 2002

by Xavier Kataquapit

New Year's Eve in Attawapiskat was always a great celebration. My best memories were from the community banned alcohol. People gathered together to chat and eat and the night came to a climax with the countdown to 12 o'clock. Then many people in the community would head out with their shotguns to fire into the air to herald in the New Year.

Before the community went dry my memories were not so good. There was a lot of drinking in the community and much chaos over the holiday season. There were also many tragedies. There are still problems of alcohol back home but things are much better since the community went dry about 15 years ago.

This year I experienced a different kind of New Year's celebration. Part of the evening was centered around a sing song. My friends Everett and Rita Elliott of Iroquois Falls had invited me for New Year's eve supper and their traditional celebration which featured a group of us singing around a piano.

I didn't know a lot of the songs that were being played but I was given a song sheet for reference and I did my best to join in. It felt so good and kind of uplifting to be singing in the New Year. I was amazed at how many songs Rita could play on the piano and without any music to read from. The songs just kept coming and it felt so good to be part of this experience having to do with music.

I could also sense a lot of respect and love in the room and that came out with the music. The Elliott family has been celebrating just about every holiday over the years around the piano. This makes a lot of sense to me and it makes me want to make music more a part of my life.

I had a unique Christmas Eve celebration this year too. I spent it with the Bradley family on Six Nations near Hagersville, Ontario. This was also a great evening. I had a fantastic meal and I was entertained by the bright little children and was grateful to be part of a Mohawk family celebration. The best part of the night for me was to hear a little boy by the name of Wesley say grace in his traditional language. First Nation people in the south have lost much of their

language and I thought it was special that this little boy was bringing it back to us. I feel very fortunate to have my Native language and I am impressed with the work being done on Six Nations to teach the traditional language to the children.

I was happy that my mom and dad had a great Christmas and New Year too. They were surrounded by family and mom prepared a great feast for everyone. We have a lot of young children in our family and they bring much happiness to my mom and dad especially during the holiday season. We never know what the future will hold for us but my good experiences over the past week lead me to believe that this will be a good year. Happy New Year to everyone. Kah-Wee Mee-Noh-Peh-Neh-N Eh O-Sh-Kee Poh-Poh-K.



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## Funding cuts aimed at reducing political focus of AFN

The Minister of Indian Affairs believes that too many Aboriginal organizations practice politics instead of delivering efficacious services to their communities. In his year-end interview with Southern News, Robert Nault said his department erroneously allowed too many Native organizations to take a political stance in the old days. He said the time has come to make amends for those oversights and he made it clear that he's the man to do it.

"I quite frankly think we've got too many political organizations all out there chasing the same dime and looking for the same dollar," he said. Mr. Nault referred to the largest political body in Canada that represents Indian people, the Assembly of First Nations, an organization that represents 633 First Nations Chiefs and their communities. He suggested that the AFN would have to make changes now that \$10 million has been slashed from its annual budget.

They'll have to reallocate funds and change priorities,

Nault said, suggesting what the AFN would have to do to survive. "What is the AFN's role? What do they think their role is?" he asked. One would think that perhaps these are questions that the Minister should be posing to AFN President, Matthew Coon Come.

Inaletterment to Native leaders at the end of last September the Minister said he'd already initiated a review to "examine all facets of PTOs (provincial/territorial organizations)." The idea, he wrote, is to "enable your organization to contribute to more effective use of your funds. Should funding efficiencies be realized, I will be looking at how these can be used to directly support communities."



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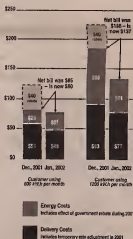
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Nault didn't say how the extra \$10 million now in government coffers would be spent. He did say, however, that he believes that most of the chiefs across the country think a lot of the resources belong in the communities.

Matthew Coon Come has just been in office for a couple of years, but he's no stranger to politics or to government bravado. The National Chief is a tenacious leader but one that is used to dealing with diplomacy and negotiation and getting his way through votes and majority rulings. Nault hasn't left much room for negotiation. He remains determined to rid the country of the Indian Act, replacing it with a new Governance Act.

Coon Come has made it clear on several occasions that he'd also like to say good riddance to the Indian Act, but he wants to make certain that the baby doesn't get thrown out with the bath water. He wants negotiations to begin between the AFN and Ottawa and he wants proper consultation with the chiefs and organization represents. But Nault has already made it clear that he doesn't want political involvement, other than the Government of Canada's, in the process he has been using to share his ideas and theories on the governance act with the communities. And if all of the meetings he's held resemble that of his 1995 governance act explanation session with a First Nation community back on April 30 last year, Indian Affairs as we know it today is in for considerable change.

Speaking to a full house at the Siksika First Nation High School, Nault offered praise to Siksika Nation Chief Adrian Stimson and lauded the efforts of the chief, council and general membership. But his speech came across as somewhat condescending, and there was a trace of determination to outfox the politicians he wants to keep from sharing in the funding pie. He told the large gathering that it was time to bring an end to the Indian Act, to end the reign of one government politician who held the power to do as he or she pleased with Canada's Indians. He told the gymnasium full of students that under the current system it would be 60 years before self-governance became a reality to all of Canada's First Nations.

"Do you know, you young people in this room," said Nault, "that the most powerful man as it relates to Aboriginal issues is me? Under the Indian Act, I control everything in your life, absolutely everything, and have the powers to make changes that quite frankly in this day and age are totally unacceptable, and that's what this debate is all about." But he failed to detail just how his ministerial power would change and how that of First Nations citizens and their leadership would evolve. Nault spoke about the court cases now pending over land claims and other issues.

"There are over 200 court cases now presently before the courts on one point of the Indian Act," he told the students. "If we leave this to the courts, they will start to make the change in our relationship, and without us. And then we will have to live with those changes. I think it would be much more prudent on our behalf if we did this together. By laying the foundation for self-government, it will give band governments the tools they need to overcome those social issues as I said before."

What the current court caseload and social issues have in common is uncertain, but one thing is certain. Court decisions have never bothered this government before. In fact, they have disregarded many court-room decisions rendered by the nation's judges, and they have done it with brazenness and fearlessness. The fact is, if the Chretien government doesn't agree with a decision, even if it's handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada, they will ignore it. So far there hasn't been a judge or a lawyer in the country who has been able to do a thing about it.

"If I have an agenda, and I assure you it's anything but hidden," Nault said to the Siksika students and

Continued on page 13

**ATCO Electric**

# Victory in court for residential school claimant

by Brian Savage

A December decision by BC Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen against the Order of Oblates who ran the Christie Residential School on Meares Island, was welcome news for many survivors of the residential school experience.

Especially after a decision only five months before was handed down by B.C. Chief Justice Brenner in the Alberta Indian Residential School case, a three-year trial with seven claimants seeking compensation for sexual abuse at the hands of school employees. The government of Canada and the United Church were the defendants. One case was thrown out, while many of the others received little monetary awards. The defence argument centred on the many horrific conditions that existed at the school, regardless of the sexual abuse itself, as an explanation for the difficulties the plaintiffs faced later in life.

The plaintiff in the Christie Residential School case was identified only as EB, and was handed an award of more than \$200,000 for the sexual abuse he suffered as an eight-year old. EB is now in his early fifties.

"It was a substantial award," says Chief Robert Joseph of the Provincial Residential School Project, "and the church and government are going to have to pay. This is a court award which is different from a settlement."

The chief has strong views on the Brenner decision. "The awards were horrible, insulting really, and they affected a number of subsequent out of court settlements in another case involving another school. This latest award will help a little bit with respect to some of the other out of court settlements that are pending."

It has become increasingly clear to the chief that the church's claim of ignorance about life at the residential schools cannot be maintained. "With the ruling in this last trial, it's going to be harder for anyone to deny this sort of thing went on. What was so brazen about this last case was that this guy, Martin Saxey, now deceased, had been convicted for murder before and ended up working as a baker in a school."

There were obviously no background checks done, says the chief. "It's quite common to discover that the pedophiles who reigned throughout these schools moved from school to school. It's a clear pattern and there should have been a much more stringent background check of employees to make sure young children were protected. And to think it continued through the decades, so we're looking at multiple incidents and thousands of victims who should never have been victimized."

The chief has called for a public inquiry into the residential schools, something touched on in the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. "Canadians really need to find out more about this sad part of our history together because if more Canadians don't learn about it I don't think we're ever going to be able to persuade the federal government and these churches that we have to do much more than we're doing now. The pain these schools caused was far greater than simply the physical and sexual abuse. And that's not minimizing it, that's pretty horrible in itself, but there were all kinds of harm that sooner or later the federal government has to take into account, and has to assist us in finding a remedy for."

While the role of the churches has sparked controversy and much soul-searching on the part of those involved, Chief Joseph says the main concern on their part seems to be the portion of awards they must pay and the inability of some of the smaller churches to make financial compensation.

"Our position has always been the church and state need to settle the question of apportionment between themselves so we can move forward with alternate dispute resolution projects and find other models of healing and reconciliation and justice and redress... this won't happen though if they continue to appeal, cross appeal and legally deny their responsibility," warns Chief Joseph.

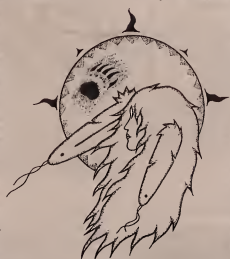
Even more troubling are the possible future cases, which may climb to 15,000 plaintiffs and beyond, observes the chief, noting that as many as 90,000 children went through the residential schools.

Chief Joseph is also concerned that the current court approach is based on individuals, when Aboriginal society is much more holistic. "We're so much broader in spectrum and perspective. You harm a child, you harm a family, harm a community, harm a nation, and everybody in the experience of our residential school system suffered because of this experience, the child, the parents, the siblings, the entire family and community. The government and the churches have not been able to grasp that picture."

By concentrating solely on the court cases, says Chief Joseph, and ignoring the other implications of the destructive harm the residential schools caused Native society, it may be that the government and churches will never address the true scope of the pain they inflicted.

"Sooner or later they have to start thinking about the greater picture: how we achieve justice and redress and healing and reconciliation and find some form of restorative justice in the Aboriginal community, where we rebuild our families, and rebuild our culture and languages and other things."

"If we can find a process, create an initiative that allows all Canadians to be better informed about this particular dark area of our history together, there could be the political will to support new ideas, step out of the box, try to find new ways to address social maladies and to find some sense of equality and justice for people."



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Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Alberta Native News, JANUARY 2002



# Experts claim water problems Ottawa's fault

by John Copley

Two University of Alberta researchers say they've found evidence that indicates Ottawa is to blame for most of the poor water conditions found throughout many of Canada's First Nations communities. In their report, Karen Clarke and Pamela Jones say they've found duplication, confusion and general mismanagement of water reservoirs to be the cause of poor water in First Nations.

The two researchers, who are working together with Canadian water expert Dr. David Schindler, say most of the problems stem from the way in which Ottawa and its provincially-located federal offices have been delivering and funding First Nations water delivery systems. They also say that the design of the water treatment facilities are sub-par and have been ever since the government began designing the plants in 1985, the year that report came out declaring that more than 170 of the 863 water treatment plants in First Nations communities presented a danger to the health and safety of reserve residents.

"Education on water quality," says Clarke, "is sparse in First Nations communities. There is a real lack of communication and resident participation."

Some efforts are being made to rectify the situation, Clarke pointed out, but "I see the process as being too slow."

From British Columbia to Nova Scotia poor water in First Nations communities is an ongoing problem that is getting little share of ink and television news coverage. Dr. Schindler, who has been a participant in numerous water safety and water management meetings, conferences and workshops in recent years, has warned of the severe and long term consequences should Canadians continue to ignore the rapidly depleting state of their water conservation and water safety treatment methods. He has stated that the global warming trend that has now been a reality for more than a quarter century is creating water shortages across the nation, particularly in the southern regions of Alberta and Saskatchewan where some

lake beds have already dried up and others are well on their way. Since 1985 the Canadian government has put nearly a half billion dollars into the upgrading and expansion of water systems and sewer facilities in northern and rural First Nations communities. More than \$30 million more has been allocated for infrastructure development in that same time period, yet the situation continues to deteriorate. Bowditch First Nation Chief Moses Martin, talking about the poor water quality that is causing illness and grave concern with his band membership, said he was forced to haul water in last summer so that his people could feel comfortable and safe doing what they'd always done, washing their hands, drinking their coffee and making Kool-aid in the hot weather.

"We can no longer take our water for granted," he said, telling of the "foot of visibility and the 15 inches of silt" that lined the bottom of his nation's drinking water reservoir. "Government needs to go a step further than looking into the matter, they need to act in good faith and help us to resolve this problem."

Walkerton, Tofino, St. John's, Cornerbrook - from across the country the cries for a better system of water treatment and water safety are loud and clear. More needs to be done. Pamela Jones agrees. She says money, or the lack of it, is often the root of problems because without cash, no one will be coming to the rescue. For example, in most cases, when a First Nation needs aid for something like better water systems they have to come up with a portion of the total cost. This portion is usually based on user fees, but as many First Nation communities can barely make ends meet financially, often nothing gets done. This doesn't surprise Jones, a member of Ontario's Batchewana First Nation. But it does concern her enough to get involved in trying to do something about it. The fact that government hasn't stepped to consider the ramifications of poor First Nations competing for the same good water quality that other enjoys is "critical oversight," she said recently, citing the fact that more than two-thirds of the country's First Nation communities are located in remote and often isolated regions.

But isolated or otherwise doesn't always count. Look at St. John's where more than 10,000 homes were ordered to boil water before usage during most of 2001, the result of a high coliform contamination that has been traced to the water supply in Petty Harbour-Long Pond, an area that's been in use for more than five decades. A similar contamination at Corner Brook, Newfoundland, has also been under investigation. But with new water contaminant problems becoming commonplace across the country, there could soon be major problems across the nation. To date neither Canada nor the largest portions of her provinces have any type of clean water regulations in place. Until that happens, no Canadian can really feel safe when they turn on the tap. Schindler told a conference in Ottawa last summer, and others across the country since then, that Ottawa has to put its collective heads together to come up with some solutions. He said it's time for Ottawa to quit "its fascination with the almighty dollar" and get down to the real issue - solving problems.



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## Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

6-5 Fifth Avenue, SW Calgary, Alberta T2P 2G5

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

ATHABASCA OIL SANDS AREA  
ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD  
APPLICATION NO. 001-144726  
ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT  
WATER ACT FILE NO. 001-144726  
WATER ACT FILE NO. 001-144726  
PETRO-CANADA OIL AND GAS

Alberta  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Take Notice that Petro-Canada Oil and Gas (Petro-Canada), has applied to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) and Alberta Environment (AENV) for approval to construct and operate a shore-based gravity drainage (SAGD) project in the Meadow Creek area. The proposed thermal project is located approximately 45 kilometers (km) south of Fort McMurray, Alberta in Townships 84 and 85, Ranges 9, 10 and 11, West of the 116th Meridian. The project is designed to produce 12 TPA (thousand tonnes per annum) or 800 barrels per day (bbl/d) of bitumen using SAGD technology.

Approximately 75 wells will be drilled initially by the first three years of construction. Site cleanup for the initial stages of the project could begin as early as the end of 2002. In preparation for commencing bitumen production as soon as late 2003. The proposed project will include:

- The drilling of multiple horizontal well pairs from pads and the use of SAGD as the recovery process;
- A central plant with steam generators, wellbore treatment and product handling, sulphur recovery, steam water storage and reclamation water storage;
- A Class II landfill for spent lime disposal; and
- Regeneration equipment expected to be approximately 332 MW of electricity load (a type of separate application anticipated during 2003).

#### Notice of the Application

In support of the proposed, Petro-Canada has prepared and submitted the following applications:

- Application No. 1220126 to the EUB under Section 10 of the Oil Sands Conservation Act to authorize the proposed SAGD project. Petro-Canada has also prepared and submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to the EUB for Regulatory Approval. AENV is the EIA report review part of the application to the EUB.
- Application No. 001-144726 to AENV under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEHA) for construction, operation, and reclamation of the proposed project.
- An application File 001144726 to AENV pursuant to Sections 37 and 52 of the Water Act (WA), to authorize water management plans including the diversion of water to 1,460,000 cubic metres annually from groundwater (approximately 93 per cent) and surface water (approximately 7 per cent) for individual and domestic purposes and the construction of a storm water retention pond.

#### Additional Information:

For information about EUB procedures, contact:  
Personnel Applications  
Alberta, Julie Wong  
Telephone: (403) 297-8537  
Further Take Notice  
Under Section 10 of the EPEHA, any person directly affected by the EPEHA application or under Section 103 of the WA may submit a written statement of concern to:  
Director, Northern Board Region  
Regulatory Approvals Centre  
Alberta Environment  
Main Floor, 9102 - 102nd Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 2G5

#### To File a Statement of Concern

Statements of Concern under EPEHA and WA must be submitted by February 28, 2002. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Objection (in opposition) with the Environmental Appeal Board. Please consult the conditions on attached EPEHA and WA applications for more information. Note that any statements filed regarding these applications are public records and are therefore accessible by the public.

For additional information or a copy of the application and EIA report, line of charge, contact:

Petro-Canada Oil and Gas  
Box 90 804  
150 - 8th Avenue SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G3  
Attention: Denise Valby  
Telephone: (403) 296-3022  
Fax: (403) 298-4734

For more information on these applications and the EIA are also available for viewing at the following locations:

Alberta Environment  
Regulatory Approvals Centre  
Main Floor, 9102 - 102nd Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 2G5  
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
2nd Floor, Provincial Building  
9916 Franklin Avenue  
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4  
Fort McMurray Public Library  
9937 Franklin Avenue  
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4  
Lac La Poudre & Outcrop Public Library  
10207 - 102nd Street  
Lac La Poudre, Alberta T0A 2C2  
The Notice of Application is being distributed to advise interested persons that the applications are available and the EUB and other Government Departments are now undertaking review of the applications.  
Oued at Calgary, Alberta on February 7, 2002

Michael J. Bunn, Q.C., General Counsel

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## Minister of Justice extends amnesty period for firearms

The federal government has announced that the amnesty for prohibited handguns and unregistered restricted firearms will be extended to December 31, 2002.

The extension of the amnesty, which began December 1, 1998, gives people until the end of next year to dispose of certain prohibited handguns that they cannot legally keep.

"These extensions will give those in possession of prohibited firearms or unregistered restricted firearms more time to take appropriate action. Our goal is to work with firearm users while ensuring public safety," said former Minister of Justice Anne McLellan.

In February 1995, the government responded to concerns from the public and the policing community by announcing the prohibition of short-barrelled or .25 and .32 calibre handguns. However, all individuals who had registered, or had applied to register a prohibited handgun at that time were grandfathered and can continue to use their firearm with the appropriate authorization.

The government recognizes the difficult situation of businesses that were caught with large inventories of these prohibited firearms in 1995 and has addressed



CHRISTOPHER HARVEY CHAMBAUD, THE GREAT BUFFALO HUNT. ©

this by proposing to grandfather these inventories up to December 1, 1998 in Bill C-15B, which is currently being considered by Parliament. Bill C-15B also proposes to change the grandfathering date for these handguns to December 1, 1998 in order to grandfather individuals who acquired them prior to that date.

Given the government's resolve to address these issues through Bill C-15B, the current amnesty has been extended to continue to protect both dealer inventories and individuals in possession of prohibited handguns while Parliament considers these amendments.

The amnesty also provides an additional year for individuals in possession of unregistered restricted firearms to have them registered without fear of repercussion. The same applies to businesses newly regulated under the Act. During the amnesty period, individuals may register the firearm; or, turn in the firearm to police or a firearms officer for destruction or disposal.

The Act requires that every firearm owner in Canada now has a licence, or a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate, and all firearms must be registered by January 1, 2003.

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Acting now means you're sure to have your registration documents before you need them. You may also apply to register on-line. Visit [www.cfc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc.gc.ca) for details.

- Registration works towards improving public safety by recognizing owner accountability for the safe use and storage of firearms.
- Any restricted or prohibited firearms that you registered under the former law must be re-registered. There is no fee for re-registration.
- Registration enables police to trace firearms that may have been stolen, illegally imported, illegally manufactured, or bought on the black market.
- Insurance coverage and claims can be obtained or handled more easily for owners of registered firearms.
- By law, all firearms must be registered by the end of 2002.

For more information, call 1 800 731-4000  
or visit [www.cfc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc.gc.ca)  
[www.canadianfirearms.com](http://www.canadianfirearms.com)

Canada

# Nunavut imposes tough limits on liquor and alcohol sales

by John Copley

The government of Nunavut is trying something that no other province or territory in Canada has ever done, and that's to control the social crisis that often accompanies the overuse of alcohol and drugs. In a region that is dominated primarily by Aboriginal Canadians who were not exposed to a great deal of outside interference and influence until after the mid-1960s, alcohol has taken its toll. Despite the fact that Nunavut is the only place in Canada where you can't just go out and buy a box of beer to watch your favourite hockey game, evidence shows that the vast but sparsely populated region is plagued by social, legal and medical problems that can be attributed to the consumption of alcoholic beverage.

Nunavut has no liquor stores. Nearly 25 percent of Nunavut's 28 communities have placed a total ban on alcohol; the other 20 allow citizens to purchase only wine and beer and it must be bought via mail order. But like the 'dirty thirties' and the day of prohibition in the United States, consumers find a way to get what they want. With bootleg booze selling at more than \$100 a bottle it was just a matter of time before someone figured out how to get around the law. Local RCMP believe that because anyone has the opportunity to get the occasional permit for an extra-large order of booze to meet the requirements of a special event or occasion, the extra or leftover alcohol ends up on the black market.

"I see some of these orders coming in," remarked Geoff Hughes, a member of the Nunavut Department of Finance, to the Canadian Press last month. "Some of them are certainly excessive. There would be no way for anybody to consume the amount of booze that was being requested. The RCMP have expressed concern that at least in some cases, the excess hard alcohol may have ended up in the illicit market."

A new set of laws came into play around Christmas time, when illegal booze sales were expected to reach a peak. The new regulations have added even tougher limits to the already small order list and major func-

tions are required to return all leftover alcohol to the government warehouse in the capital city of Iqaluit. Those supplying the alcohol must now limit their customers to two drinks per hour per person. Prices have dropped, however, as government has cut its added costs of \$9 per bottle and nearly \$12 per case of beer. The move was designed to bridge the pricing gap between those in Iqaluit and those of its neighbouring, but remote communities.

The issue of alcohol, legal and illegal, has also been a heavy topic in Nunavut's

Legislative Assembly. One of the most vocal MLAs on the subject has been Baker Lake's, Glenn McLean. He's questioned the speaker and the Legislature on several occasions regarding the government's plan to review the current process on liquor control. He's also been vocal about the bootlegging situation in the north.

"My question today," said Mr. McLean, during a recent session (recorded in Hansard) is "to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Board, Uqaq, it is no secret in this Territory that we do have problems with alcohol and drug abuse and I know that the other government departments are very proactive in trying to combat it and deal with it. My question today is if the minister responsible is looking at any overhaul or total review of the liquor legislation in Nunavut?"

He went on to say that "I know that the minister will be looking at certain issues like bootlegging. That seems to be rampant in some communities in Nunavut. I do not want to start mentioning names because they will feel that I am picking on them. But also about the drug abuse and the drug peddlers and we know there is no shortage of them in this Territory either. But the issue here is, in the Yukon Territory and I do not want to compare us to other Territories, but we do have problems with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and the

other things that happen with abuse with this substance of alcohol."

"What the minister responsible consider like they do in the Yukon, of putting in the two cents a drink tax on alcohol products in Nunavut, and take that money and directing it toward those programs?"

Further changes to the liquor act are currently under review and because of the many health issues and concerns in the north, they are likely to remain on the table for some time yet.

Other rules governing alcohol in Nunavut include the prohibiting of sales or free giveaways by individuals visiting the region. It is also illegal to trade alcohol for carvings, artwork, crafts and other goods. Violators of these laws are considered bootleggers and will be prosecuted as such. A valid permit must be obtained through the NWT Liquor Commission Office in Iqaluit by individuals seeking to purchase in excess of 12,355 ml cans/bottles of beer and/or 1,140 ml of wine or spirits.

Communities that prohibit the sales and/or consumption of alcohol include Arviat, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Pelly Bay, Sanikiluaq and Whale Cove.



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## art and culture briefs

### Telefilm Canada / APTN Awards Call for Entries

Telefilm Canada and Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) are seeking entries for the 2002 Telefilm Canada / APTN Awards. The awards are valued at approximately \$25,000 each and are offered in two Categories: *Best Canadian Aboriginal Language Television Production* and *Best Canadian English or French Language Aboriginal Television Production*. Entry deadline is April 30, 2002 with awards to be presented to both winners at the 2002 Banff Television Festival, running June 9 to 14, 2002.

Each award package consists of \$10,000 in pre-approved financing from Telefilm Canada for the development or production of a new work eligible for Telefilm Canada financial assistance; full festival registration for the 2002 Banff Television Festival offered by the Banff Television Foundation; full travel and accommodations during the festival provided by APTN and Telefilm Canada; and \$10,000 in post-production services courtesy of the Banff Centre for the Arts.

The genres of competition are: Feature Length Documentary, Documentary Series, Documentary One-Off, Made-For-TV Movie, Mini Series, Continuing Dramatic Series, Short Drama, Comedy, Popular Science Program, Variety and Performing Arts, Children's Program, Information Program and Animation Program.

All entries must have been made for television and be made by an Aboriginal production organization or independent Aboriginal producer. Entries must have participation from two out of three of the following: Aboriginal producer, director or writer. Entries must have been completed between May 1, 2001 and April 30, 2002 and may be in English, French or Aboriginal language. If the production has not been aired, application must include a letter from a broadcaster confirming their intent to broadcast.

Entry forms are available from Telefilm Canada, APTN and Banff Centre for the Arts and will also be distributed to various film and video organizations and provincial funding agencies. Entries must be forwarded to Telefilm Canada / APTN Awards, c/o Calvin Yarush, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, 339 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2C3.

For detailed entry information visit the APTN website at [www.aptn.ca/en/telefilm2002/](http://www.aptn.ca/en/telefilm2002/) or the Telefilm Canada website at [www.telefilm.gc.ca](http://www.telefilm.gc.ca). By phone, contact Calvin Yarush, APTN, 204-947-9331, ext 340 or 888-278-8862, ext. 340 or Shelley Nowazek, Telefilm Canada, 604-666-1881 or [nowazek@telefilm.gc.ca](mailto:nowazek@telefilm.gc.ca)

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### Indigenous Martha Stewart television series underway

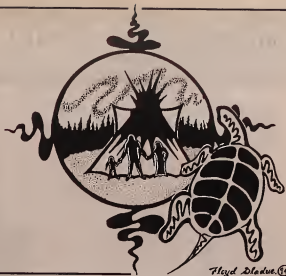
*The Creative Native*, a 'how to' show debuting on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, is a lively, high quality half-hour show that demonstrates the step-by-step process of creating traditional and contemporary Aboriginal crafts from beginner to intermediate levels.

Host and producer Tamara Bell introduces unique Aboriginal artists and craftspeople that construct artifacts in an entertaining and educational setting.

*The Creative Native* debuts Saturdays, starting January 5th, on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, 12 Noon Pacific/3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Episodes will include: the construction of a drum, a dream catcher, a choker, basket weaving, Northwest Coast Jewelry carving and Northwest Coast Mask carving. Artists and craftspeople come from a variety of cultural backgrounds, and share their knowledge of materials, supplies and trade secrets. Guest artists include: Kiatle-Bhi, Ray Thunderchild, Mona Moreno, Teresa Walker, David Noel and Tracy Williams. Episodes also include a 'tip' segment that demonstrates how to care for artifacts, the introduction of new materials and provide cultural information.

Aboriginal arts and crafts have always contained spiritual and historic significance; aspects of this significance will be demonstrated throughout this show. Tamara Bell says, "The overall theme of the show will be to foster and salvage interest in culturally important traditions and highlight emerging Aboriginal artists and craftspeople".



May the Great Spirit grant us knowledge,  
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along a healthy and successful path.  
From

Chief Eddie Makokis  
Council, Elders, Staff and Band Members



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**April 2, 2002\***

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To apply or to find out more about this program, please contact your nearest Human Resources Development Canada office or call 1 800 935-5555.

Internet: [www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca)

\* Please note that the application deadline for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut is April 9, 2002.



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# Saluting Youth

## 1200 students attend largest career fair in Saskatoon

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation brought close to 1,200 Aboriginal high school students from across Saskatchewan to attend *Blueprint for the Future*, a one-day career fair held in November at the Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre in Saskatoon.

The career fair featured 100 workshops provided by 100 of Canada's most topical and knowledgeable speakers. Career topics ranged from business and finance to science and technology, and also covered careers in health, the law, media, education, social sciences, the arts, public service, natural resources and the environmental sciences.

"This was the tenth *Blueprint for the Future* to be organized by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. The career fairs are designed to introduce Aboriginal high school students to careers never before contemplated," said John Kim Bell. "The career fairs have become more and more relevant as Aboriginal youth are the fastest growing segment of the Canadian population. By introducing high school students to a whole new career world, we are finding this is opening the doors to increased and meaningful employment. It is our goal to increase the participation of Aboriginal people into the Canadian work force as they are currently under represented, and this is



one method that is showing promising results," said John Kim Bell, the founder and president of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Speakers covered career topics ranging from how to become an animator, to how to become a zoologist.

Technology served as a key focus of the day's activities with University of Saskatchewan Neuro-chemistry professor Dr. Lillian Dyck explaining how the brain works, and how it can be fooled.

Animator Steve Rabatich, who worked on *Toy Story* and *Care Bears*, showed the students the art of animation and helped them design an actual animated storyboard.

Teresa Sylvester of the Canadian Light Source facility talked about synchrotron light and its many industrial, medical and scientific applications.

The keynote luncheon speaker was Canadian Olympic athlete Wanee Horn Miller. Known for a racey picture on the cover of *Maclean's Magazine*, Wanee is the Co-Captain of Canada's Women's Water Polo Team. She is a graduate of Carleton University and she explained to her audience what it takes to reach the Olympics.

Other speakers included Alan Mills of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association, Professor Brian Lazer on how to gain admission to a Canadian law school, and Stephen Halabura on careers in engineering and the geo-scientific world.

The career fair was co-sponsored by lead corporate sponsors CIBC and the Royal Bank and public sector sponsors Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Industry Canada through Aboriginal Business Canada, Health Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Canadian Heritage through the

Multiculturalism Program, the Province of Saskatchewan, and the City of Saskatoon.

Other private sector sponsors include BP Canada Energy Company, Canadian Pacific Railway, Casino Regina, Nexen Inc., Petro-Canada, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board, SaskEnergy, Scotiabank, Suncor Energy Foundation, TD Canada Trust, and the University of Saskatchewan.

Other public sector sponsors include Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Department of National Defence, Department of Justice Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, National Research Council (Plant Biotechnology Institute), Natural Resources Canada, Solicitor General Canada, Transport Canada, and Western Economic Diversification Canada.

The organizer of the event – the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation – is a nationally registered charity established in 1985 by Mohawk conductor and composer John Kim Bell. The NAAF provides scholarships to Aboriginal students for education and training in business, sciences, the arts and health areas. It awards over \$2 million to students each year enrolled in post-secondary study, and since 1986 has awarded more than \$12 million to motivated students across the country. The NAAF also produces the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, an awards program recognizing the career achievements of Aboriginal people seen on CBC Television as a network special.

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## BDC launches E-Spirit 2002 Competition across Canada

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) is pleased to launch E-Spirit 2002, a national Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition. This Internet-based competition is aimed at Aboriginal students in Grades 10 to 13 across the country. Students take part in E-Spirit through their schools. The goal of the competition is to expose Aboriginal youth to the potential of entrepreneurship and the Internet.

"Through the E-Spirit competition, participants will learn about business development and the multiple facets of starting and running your own business," says Jim Richardson, National Director for Aboriginal Banking at the Business Development Bank of Canada. "The competition gives students the chance to develop the skills needed to become successful entrepreneurs and hopefully part of tomorrow's Aboriginal business leaders," he added.

This year's competition features 56 schools representing 97 teams and over 350 students across Canada. The competition officially commences this month allowing 16 weeks for students to complete their business plans and video presentations. In addition to cash prizes for the winning entries, each participating team receives special prizes as they achieve milestones. The contest also features interactive business planning resources on the "E-Spirit" website, access to mentors online and a chance to meet and network with other students from across Canada, online and in person. The E-Spirit 2002 competition will culminate in a Gala Awards ceremony to be held in Montreal, Quebec on May 24, 2002.

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) is a financial institution wholly owned by the Government of Canada. BDC plays a leadership role in delivering financial, venture capital and consulting services to Canadian small businesses, with particular focus on the technology and export sectors of the economy.

For further details on "E-Spirit", check out their website at [www.espirit.bdc.ca](http://www.espirit.bdc.ca).

## Funding cuts, continued from page 6

others in attendance, "it is to strip the power and authorities bestowed on the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs under the archaic Indian Act to manage the internal affairs of your community. I want to put them where they rightfully belong, with your elected band governments for more effective and accountable governance. When I talk about good governance, I mean a good system of checks and balances within the community."

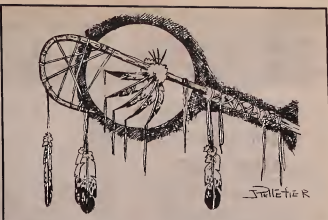
Robert Nault continued by saying "that's what this initiative (governance act) is about, addressing governance issues facing First Nation communities, issues the 130-year-old Indian Act didn't envision." He said that the new act "is not about altering the inherent right to self-government. It's not to affect the federal government's treaty relationship with First Nations or First Nations' treaty rights. It will not address band status and membership entitlements or Aboriginal rights nor will the powers of First Nations in relation to lands and resources be the focus of attention and therefore the intent is not to affect these fiduciary relationships."

National Chief Matthew Coon Come is not alone in his concern that Nault is going about things the wrong way. The AFN, formerly the National Indian Brotherhood, has been the voice and the right arm of Canada's First Nations since 1968. The organization is the one body that truly understands what many do not, and that's simply that Nault's words have been heard before, though said by someone else in another time in history. Promises of ministers and government lawmakers mean little; they've changed their horses in the middle of the stream too many times to count.

"How we can get together and how we can agree to a real form of governance that would replace the Indian Act is an (ongoing) problem," said Chief Coon Come, who wants Nault and government to sit and talk and make changes together, with input from the AFN and its member Chiefs. "If (government) works in isolation without involving the First Nations, then it will fail," predicted the National Chief, who has repeatedly reminded Canadians that more than 90 percent of First Nations and their organizations comply fully with all audit requirements of the federal government.

"This perception of us mismanaging our resources is very misleading and unfair to First Nations' leadership."

Indian Affairs currently gives around \$350 million to slightly more than 300 provincial organizations and tribal councils across the country, a drop in the bucket compared to the nearly \$7.3 billion the federal government kicks in each year to meet its obligations as described under the Indian Act.



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## For Aboriginal students with business spirit

BDC is proud to announce the launch of E-Spirit 2002. E-Spirit is a national, Internet-based Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition for Aboriginal youth enrolled in grades 10 to 13.

E-Spirit 2002 encourages Aboriginal youth, through the use of technology, to develop a business idea and consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

This year's competition will run from January 7, 2002 to May 1, 2002. Congratulations and best wishes to the 56 schools, 97 teams and over 350 students who have registered to participate. An awards ceremony will take place in May 2002 to celebrate the winners.

For more information, visit our Web site!

[www.espirit.bdc.ca](http://www.espirit.bdc.ca)

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## Aboriginal student earns CN scholarship award

Canadian National is proud to announce that it has awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to Candis Callison, a highly promising Canadian Aboriginal student, to help further her graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. Ms. Callison,



Candis Callison  
CN Aboriginal Award recipient

who is a member of British Columbia's Tahltan Band, is completing a Masters of Science degree in comparative media studies.

"I would like to congratulate Candis Callison for her outstanding academic and personal achievements," says CN President and Chief Executive Officer Paul M. Telier. "She is inspiring many in First Nations

communities to take advantage of the opportunities available through colleges and universities. We are proud to lend a helping hand in their pursuit of higher education."

The scholarship is provided by CN's Aboriginal Awards program, established in 1988 to help qualified Aboriginal students in a recognized institute, college or university. The program encourages Status Indian, Non-Status Indian, Inuit and Métis students to pursue post-secondary studies and is based on a student's income and grades.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) administers the CN program, including receipt and review of scholarship applications, approval and granting of the scholarships.

The Aboriginal Awards Program is one of several initiatives supported by CN that help First Nations communities. The most recent one will culminate on Feb. 6, 2002, in Calgary, when CN will join CIBC, Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Ltd., Suncor Energy Inc., and TransCanada PipeLines Limited in a major private sector effort to address the issue of increasing the participation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian workforce through a new initiative entitled "Taking Pulse." Some 150 corporate and public sector leaders, Aboriginal leaders, youth and educators will convene to develop a long-term strategy to address career development and training initiatives for Aboriginal people.

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## Exciting new programs at Nunavut Arctic College

Nunavut is a reality, and with the new territory come some many exciting career opportunities for qualified people.

Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) helps many people in Nunavut to prepare for the employment and business opportunities that Nunavut has to offer. Courses offered at the Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Igloolik campuses and 24 community learning centres help many succeed in meeting their goals. Records show that more than 85 percent of the college's graduates successfully find jobs and that no less than 94 percent say that their Nunavut Arctic College education prepared them to enter the work force and that they will recommend NAC to others.

NAC is different from colleges in other parts of Canada. Students can choose from a range of unique, top quality courses and programs that are based on

the traditional values and beliefs of Nunavut's people and designed to help students pursue a path of life-long learning and personal development. NAC is proud to be Nunavut's own college - the premier provider of post-secondary education and training programs for the people of Nunavut for more than 20 years. Core funded programs include courses in education, nursing, Inuit language and culture, environmental technology, business, fine arts and social work. Students completing these programs are eligible for transfer credits with a number of Canadian universities, colleges and professional organizations. Adult basic education and pre-employment training is also offered in 24 Nunavut communities, as well as various career development and trades programs (subject to demand and secured funding).

The Nunavut Research Institute is also an important part of Nunavut Arctic College, providing advisory services and acting as a development partner in science and technology education. The Institute operates out of research centres located in Igloolik and Igloolik.

For information about the many informative and innovative programs offered at Nunavut Arctic College call one of the three regional campuses at Rankin Inlet (867) 645-5500, Igloolik (867) 979-7200 or Cambridge Bay (867) 983-4108, or visit their website at [www.nac.nu.ca](http://www.nac.nu.ca).

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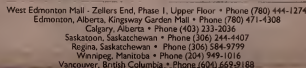
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## by John Copley

Chalifoux thinks her bill has a better chance of being accepted than the one presented by Cordy. One of the main points of controversy back then was the fact that Riel was being referred to as the Father of Confederation, something Chalifoux has eliminated this time around. She also asks that Parliament bring "harmony to Canada's national story" by honoring Riel and his descendants and their families, the Metis people in Canada today. The new bill will also ask that Riel be referred to as a Metis patriot and a Canadian hero. The bill recognizes Riel's contribution to the "rights and interests of the





## Keyano programs provide skilled oilsands workforce

To ensure that industry has access to a trained pool of workers and that local people are able to take advantage of the employment opportunities available in the oilsands industry, Keyano College recently introduced the Process Operator program and expanded its Gas Field Operator and Power Engineering programs.

The two-year Process Operator program, introduced at Keyano in 2001, prepares students to maintain, monitor, assess, evaluate, isolate and operate equipment in oilsands plants through classroom instruction and a six-month paid work-site placement. Upon completion of the program, graduates are fully qualified 4th Class Power Engineers with a Certificate in Process Operations. Graduates are in high demand as Athabasca oilsands developers identified a need for more than 700 process operators over the next 10 years. The next program intake is May 2002.



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Keyano also responded to rapid industry growth by expanding its Gas Field Operator program. In 2001 the program's intake of students increased from 15 to 30. This entry-level program prepares students with no previous gas field experience to become field operators. Students develop the skills and knowledge required to maintain and trouble shoot gas production equipment from wellsite to trunk pipe through classroom experience and a 12-week on-site work placement. The program boasts a 90 percent employment rate.

Outstanding employment rates played a key role in the expansion of Keyano's Power Engineering program. As a result of enrolment targets being consistently met and industry demand still expanding, the program increased enrolment from 20 to 24 per cohort. Industry predicts that more than 1,000 power engineers will be required in the next five years. The Power Engineering program prepares students for employment through a progression of classroom instruction linked directly to the work place where they gain paid experience as they earn 4th and 3rd class certifications.

Whether it's introducing new programs, expanding existing programs or assisting students in securing employment, Keyano continues to effectively respond to the needs of industry and students. Most recently,

industry demand has increased the need for affordable housing and student funding.

With a single residence and two family housing complexes, Keyano offers an affordable housing option for students. Keyano also offers one of the most comprehensive awards programs in Alberta. In 2001, 351 monetary awards totalling more than \$300,000 were presented at the 35th annual Student Awards Night.

In addition, Keyano offers a number of services for Aboriginal students, who account for 20 percent of the student population. The Aboriginal Student Centre provides students with a cultural hub through which they can hold meetings, study or access counselling services. An Aboriginal Student Counsellor is available through the Student Services Centre to provide support and assist in course selection. And, awareness of Aboriginal issues is promoted each year at the college's Aboriginal Awareness Days. Apart from the services provided at Keyano's Clearwater (main) Campus, the college also provides educational opportunities in Aboriginal communities through a campus in Fort Chipewyan and learning centres in Janvier, Fort McKay, Conklin and Greig Lake.

For more information about the programs and activities at Keyano College, call Jason at Student services (780) 791-8047 or toll free 1-800-251-1408.

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Process Operator and Power Engineering  
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For more information on these programs, contact  
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# Blood Tribe Feature

## Blood Health Clinic's new additions on schedule, within budget

by John Copley

The Blood Indian Health Clinic is one of the busiest medical services buildings in southern Alberta. Located on the Blood Indian Reserve, the facility, which has been in operation since 1985, caters to a variety of health care issues and is the major health unit for the more than 8,750 Blood Tribe members who live on-reserve and for many of the more than 2,000 who live away from home. Until 1997, when the Kainai Community Care Centre (KCCC) was built, the health clinic consisted of just one main building. The KCCC added the ability to house up to 25 long-term care patients. Another unit, not yet in use, is also available to care for up to 25 additional patients suffering with minor injuries, cuts, abrasions and other short term care ailments.

Last June negotiations got under way to add yet another section to the health clinic and in September the first phase of construction was initiated. The project, expected to be finished by June 15 this year, will add nearly 16,000 square feet to the existing structure and when complete will link all three buildings with a set of specially designed corridors.

"We are all quite excited about the new phase and what it will mean to the community," said Blood Indian Health Clinic, CEO, Charles Weaselhead, during a recent interview with *Alberta Native News*. "The main addition will house a brand new clinic but other factors have also been considered. For example, our ambulance service will have an extra 723 square feet of room at their disposal and the Emergency Care will encompass another 2,366 square feet. The corridors linking the entire facility add an extra 904 square feet while another 474 square feet is scheduled for some renovation work."

The general contractor for the project is the St. Mary's Construction Co. Ltd. #7, a division of the band-owned St. Mary's Projects Ltd. Construction company General Manager, and manager of the additions and renovation project, Len Day Rider, spoke to *Alberta Native News* about the project and its significance to the community.

"The project has been a boon for many of the unemployed members living on-reserve," he said. "We are currently running a work crew of up to two dozen people and we are proud to say that 74.2 percent of that labour force currently comes from the Blood Reserve. Of course, we do have some specialized fields where we tender the contract out, but even in those cases, as the general contractor we enter into contracts with our subcontractors wherein our contract stipulates that a minimum of 50 percent of the labour force be hired from within the community and that they are paid the same standard industry rates as other employees on the job."

Day Rider, who has 32 years of experience in the construction industry, said the initiative taken by the Blood leadership to utilize the construction trade and take

Continued on page 19



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## Construction company incorporates Native culture in its business

Len Day Rider is a construction project management specialist with over 30 years experience, education and knowledge in the construction building industry. As a carpenter apprentice in the late 60s, to owning and operating a successful General Contracting business in the early 70s, he complemented these skills with a diverse educational background in accounting, contract law, architecture, civil engineering, and management at the university level. Currently, he is providing his services on a consultant basis (D.R. Consultants) to the Blood Tribe as well as to numerous other First Nations organizations throughout Alberta. Within the last four years, he has recently completed a 14 km highway upgrade project for the Alberta Government known as Highway 505 West that runs through the Blood Reserve. He has also worked on and completed a \$1 million dollar mini-mall project located near Cardston.

Len was also instrumental in the placement of the first ever Aboriginal Hire Agreement format used by the Alberta Government in the recent replacement of the St. Mary's Dam Spillway worth nearly \$45 million dollars. Along with this Spillway replacement project, Len was called on to arrange for the delivery of over 100,000 metric tonnes of assorted aggregates under a timed contract and success was realized in just under three weeks. The Blood Tribe Human Resources Department also recently built an extension onto their facilities and this project was completed on time and under the allotted budget of \$630,000 dollars under the direction, supervision and leadership of Len Day Rider.

Currently Len is the Co-General Manager for St. Mary's Projects Ltd. who have just recently been awarded a \$2.5 million dollar contract for the Blood Tribe Health Clinic Expansion of nearly 16,000 sq. ft. located in Standoff, Alberta.

St. Mary's Projects Ltd. is a First Nations consulting and contracting company offering a broad range of architectural, engineering, management and construction services.

St. Mary's Construction Co. Ltd. offers a full range of services. As a full service organization, the company has access to the experience, equipment, labour, material and financial resources to complete projects related to infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, power lines, gas lines, irrigation works, bridges, canals, spillway embankments), buildings (schools, medical facilities, office structures, retail malls, recreation and residential facilities) and environmental reclamation.

"Our parent company and its subsidiary have devel-

oped a steadfast relationship with several business/professional associations such as our architects (IBI Group & ACB Architects), Engineers (UMA Engineering Ltd.), Law Firms (Walsh Wilkens), Accountant Firms (YPM & Associates) and Consultants (PM Associates Ltd.), explained Day Rider. "The relationship developed over these years is built on trust, integrity, honour, commitment and in the best interests of those whom we all serve in the end."

"Native culture has successfully incorporated into our business planning, management and operations of the company through a steadfast commitment to continuously search for and employ our own people in

designated areas in the construction industry," continued Day Rider. "These are achieved through proper training programs, incentives and awards to those individuals who choose this type of career. Our orientations, in its entirety, actively promote the awareness aspect of who we are, what we can achieve and how we are going to reach our goals. These orientations are akin to our ancestors' way of life where everything is achievable if the effort is put into it by the individual. Currently, our company is operated solely by Native personnel from top level management through to our site superintendents. Our philosophy is built on the belief that successful projects begin with a relationship based on trust and integrity, a relationship utilizing an action-oriented team approach where all parties work to a common goal. Our people and processes are a reflection of our commitment to this philosophy."

According to Day Rider, the clients are key members of the team. They set the goals and priorities. "Our role is to listen and work with the client to develop workable solutions. A successful project must be responsive to the needs of all stakeholders," he added. "Our experience and commitment helps us to better understand the special needs of our clients - training, employment local subcontracting, business development and partnership arrangements. Our clients can rely on high quality service through a single source of responsibility."

St. Mary's Construction Co. Ltd. has also had a positive impact on the Blood Reserve and its neighbouring communities, through a variety of initiatives such as the Standoff Foot Patrol and programs of a spiritual nature.

"Without the leadership, vision, understanding and know-how of our board of directors, management and staff, we would not be where we are today," concluded Day Rider. "And of course it is all based on our ancestors' teachings, which simply put was to never give up."

Proud to be the  
General/Project Manager for the  
Blood Tribe Clinic Expansion Project

### Our Philosophy

St. Mary's Projects Ltd. is a First Nation consulting and contracting company offering a broad range of architectural, engineering, management and construction services.

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Leonard Day Rider  
General/Project Manager

## Health Clinic, Continued from page 17

advantage of the employment and training opportunities that the project would provide for local residents, is to be commended.

"The project is running on schedule and within budget," said Mr. Day Rider. "We are accomplishing a great deal with this project. We've not only managed to hire local people, but we've also been able to provide them with training opportunities in the paint, plumbing, drywall, blueprint reading and safety areas of construction. For many these are new skills and ones that can be used again on another job."

Another benefit, added Day Rider, who until recently had to live away from his traditional home because of a lack of suitable employment, "I am once again able to live here and enjoy life here; there's no place like home."

The Blood Indian Health Clinic was built to improve the quality of health, and therefore, the quality of life for people on the Blood Indian Reserve. It was also built to promote education and to provide availability to adequate health care services for members of the Blood Band. By initiating, developing, establishing and maintaining a professional set of policies, procedures, projects and programs, the Blood Health Clinic has managed to stay abreast of the times, and today provides a wide range of services and a vast repertoire of programs.

"We have two doctors on staff, Dr. Dan Bester and Dr. Esther Tail Feathers, who are proud to acknowledge as a home-grown doctor and a member of the Blood Indian Band," explained CEO Charles Weaselhead. "The facility has grown by leaps and bound over the years, as can be measured by our steady increase in personnel. Our staff has grown from 40 to 120 full time workers, an accomplishment we are proud of."

The physicians provide medicare, prenatal and postnatal care, suturing, casting, consultation and monitoring. They are also responsible for the follow-up work involved in long-term care of diabetic and arthritic patients. They are also responsible for referring their patients to outside or off-reserve specialists.

Charles Weaselhead outlined some of the other services offered at the Blood Health Clinic.

"We are set up with a complete medical laboratory service that acts as a support to the physician when requesting specified laboratory services for his patients, including emergency cases. Laboratory services are also provided for the Kainai Continuing Care Centre."

The Dental Clinic offers a full range of services including examination, x-ray, cleaning, fluoride application, fitting, extraction, root canal treatment, crown and bridge treatment and denture construction.

"A dental program is also provided for children attending reserve schools," explained Mr. Weaselhead, adding that "referrals are also made for patients requiring specialized treatment."

The Optometry provides full vision care. Beginning with an eye examination, and concluding with the dispensing of eyeglasses or contact lenses, the Optometry is staffed by both an optometrist and an assistant.



ant.

"The clinic also has a physiotherapist on duty," added Mr. Weaselhead. "A qualified professional, our physiotherapist performs a variety of physical therapy evaluations, including orthopedic, cardio respiratory and neurology, and treatment. These services are carried out as a result of a referral by a physician. The physiotherapist is also involved in the treatment, education and management of the disabled patient(s) in their care."

The clinic's pharmacy is licensed under the Alberta Pharmaceutical Act as the Blood Tribe Pharmacy and is managed by Tim Tailfeathers, a Blood Tribe member.

"Like all pharmacies," explained Mr. Weaselhead, "the Blood Tribe Pharmacy dispenses drugs, maintains patient medical profiles and provides several additional services on an on-demand basis. It also fills medication dosettes and is responsible for the delivery of drugs and (old/outdated) drug round up."

The community health programs offered at the clinic include the Communicable Disease Control Program, Chronic Disease Control Program, Maternal and Child Health, School Health Program, Counseling, Environmental Health Status, Education and Preventative Health Care, Mental Health, Non-Insured Health Benefits, Alberta Aids to Daily Living, a Tuberculosis Control Program, Home Care and an HIV program. The Blood Health Unit also provides a Satellite Clinic in the community of Leverna.

The Kainai Continuing Care Centre, born out of need in 1987, provides a range of services to individuals with chronic disabilities. The program includes residential, personal and health services not only to the ailing but to their families as well.

"The continuing care program," explained Mr. Weaselhead, "has a variety of components that offer life enrichment and social support as well as personal care assistance, technical aid and respite services."

The Kainai Home Care program is another unique service provided by the Blood Indian Health Clinic. The program is designed for on-reserve Aboriginal clients of all ages who are suffering from acute illness, chronic ailments and disabilities and those who require palliative care.

"The home care program," he continued, "offers a variety of essential nursing services, home support services and rehabilitation services. The respite care service helps to relieve individuals of responsibility for family members who are ill for long periods of time, and the palliative care unit helps to provide comfort for the terminally ill."

The Blood Indian Health Clinic also offers an integrated approach to outside programs through its in-house Counselling Services. These referrals and in-house programs include those developed by the Canadian Red Cross, the National Native Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program, the Native Mental Health Program, the Crisis Intervention Unit and others. Surrounded by the Belly, St. Mary and Old Man Rivers, Alberta's most southern reserve is located near Standoff, the south end of which lies parallel to the Cardston township boundary line. More information about the Blood Indian Health Clinic can be obtained by calling (403) 737-3888.

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# LEGEND

The Village Outcast is provided by the Luc La Ronge Band, Curriculum Resource Unit who are dedicated to providing quality educational resources to all the people of the First Nations.

## The Village Outcast

Collected and illustrated by James Ratt  
Told by Mary E. McKenzie

Many years ago, a tribe of Cree Indians were living at a summer hunting ground. Each year, they would travel to the area when winter and spring had gone by. One day everyone felt strange feelings coming over them and the people walked around in a trance-like condition. Something terrible was approaching their camp; they could feel it in the air. A *whitiko* was wandering towards their camp and the medicine men in the village began to call on their spiritual protectors to try and prevent the *whitiko* from destroying their homes.

The sky had grown dark as the clouds were building up and the wind also intensified in force. Many of the tents were blown to the ground as magical ceremonies were formed, but they did not work, the *whitiko* was still coming. The medicine men were soon defeated.



Then one village outcast spoke to the medicine men, "The only way to save the village is to ask me to protect the people. Give me many offerings because I will need the strength to stop this creature."

Everyone laughed at the outcast who had no family or relatives in the camp. He had been orphaned many years before and was allowed to stay in camp as a source for jokes and for doing menial chores, like helping the women to get firewood.

How could he possibly hope to destroy the *whitiko*? The medicine men went on with their own rituals trying to prevent the *whitiko* from coming.



But the *whitiko* kept moving toward the village. When the *whitiko* was near the medicine men were paralyzed with fear.

In desperation they realized their only chance for survival was the village outcast. All the people came to the lodge of the outcast at the edge of camp and piled gifts near the doorway.



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The wind was howling when the outcast started his ritual. As he smoked his pipe, three noises came from the bowl. Outside his teepee the thunder was deafening and the wind was blowing trees over. Then the man ran out to meet the whittiko. Above the noise of the storm the people in the village heard three great noises.



The noises sounded like gun shots but there were no guns in those days. Then the wind and storm ceased and the sun came out.



Many Indians were lying on the ground but were revived from the whittiko's attack. Soon everyone was back to normal and they saw the outcast coming out from the forest.

"I've killed the creature and he is lying on the rocks near the river. You can see its back sticking out from the water's edge."

All the people went to the river to see for themselves. The whittiko was dead among the rocks in the water.

Then the village outcast told the people in camp that he would make the whittiko disappear with the help of his spiritual friends. The next day the people went to the river and found that the creature had indeed disappeared.



From that day on the village outcast was treated with the greatest of respect. He was given the loveliest maiden in the camp for his wife. And he lived the rest of his days in happiness for saving the village from the terrible whittiko.

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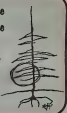
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# Justice for All

## Sask. lawyers set to study accessibility of legal information

by Brian Savage

The Public Legal Education Association (PLEA) is a non-profit organization funded by the Law Foundation in Saskatchewan. Their goals are to help educate and inform the people in the province about the law and legal topics.

A new project has been drafted which encompasses serving Native organizations, bands and indi-

viduals on topics of the law that Aboriginals may want to know more about, such as their legal rights.

Kathy Grier is one of two lawyers (the other being Laurier Caron) hired by PLEA to conduct the study and issue a report on their findings.

"PLEA put forward a proposal last year to their funding agency which is the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan to fund this, basically to ensure that they were servicing the needs of the Aboriginal people of the province." According to Grier, provincial statistics showed many Aboriginals living in remote northern communities, with limited access to formal education and limited knowledge of the English language.

"PLEA provides legal information and education to the general public," explains Grier. "It's generally done through pamphlets, guest speakers, presentations and work shops, but there were some concerns and questions that we were not reaching certain populations, particularly Aboriginal people. We also wanted to know which topics might be of particular interest in the Aboriginal population that aren't being addressed." Grier says the response to the survey mailed out after the New Year has provided "very positive feedback."

Most of those responding have been representatives of Aboriginal organizations, but the survey has also been sent out to band councils, education programs aimed at Aboriginal people, Metis locals, and advocacy groups for First Nations and Metis, as well as Aboriginal lawyers in the province, and also police services, says Grier, who adds that a lot of research was done on the Internet.

"People are responding quite readily to the survey," notes the lawyer, "indicating which areas they're currently asked about and areas they think should be looked at. We also ask how they think the programs should be delivered and whom do you think we could obtain funding from in order to do that - we're trying to cover the whole thing. Our goal is to do the information gathering and from there they would have to go back to funding agencies for further funding to develop programs and distribute the information."

The final report is due to be delivered by PLEA to



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# Salute to the North

## Joint NWT Economic Development Advisory Forum created

The Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Aboriginal leaders represented by the NWT Aboriginal Summit have recently created an NWT Economic Development Advisory Forum. The Forum brings together a broad range of economic development interests in the NWT to provide information, advice and recommendations to the Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) on economic development matters.

"We are creating a new partnership that will focus its energy on bringing about more coordinated economic development programming in the NWT," said Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "Governments, working together, need to develop our economic development priorities, policies, and initiatives."

The NWT Economic Development Advisory Forum may have up to 20 members, all of whom are jointly appointed by the three Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) parties. The members will sit for a term of three years and will represent a cross-section of interests including renewable resources, non-renewable resources, traditional economy, transportation and infrastructure, financing, human resource development, social development, tourism, environment and the service sector.

"This partnership is an indication of our collective commitment to better coordinate and streamline our approach to economic development in the NWT," said Jim Antoine, GNWT's Minister Responsible for the Intergovernmental Forum and Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. "Establishing this Advisory Forum within the broad framework of the Intergovernmental Forum ensures that all parties' interests will be well represented."

"I'm pleased to be a member of this new Advisory Forum, and I look forward to being involved in jointly planning the future economic development of our territory," said Grand Chief Joe Rabesca, on behalf of the Aboriginal Summit. "The Advisory Forum provides an opportunity for Aboriginal Governments to participate in the design of new approaches to sustainable development."

"This collaborative advisory approach considers a full range of views, and increases Aboriginal involvement in economic policy development in a practical way," said Ethel Biondin-Andrew, MP for the Western Arctic. "By addressing these issues collectively, this territory will be better positioned to take advantage of future opportunities."

Aboriginal, federal and territorial leaders have held two Intergovernmental Forums (IGF) in the NWT to work together on territorial-level priorities. At the second IGF in Inuvik last May, the leaders decided to establish an NWT Economic Development Advisory Forum.



## Shehtah Drilling completes construction of two new drill rigs for Arctic use

Shehtah Drilling Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Denendeh Development Corporation (DDC) has finished construction on Rig 4E and nearly completed Rig 5E. These two new triple drill rigs are contracted for work in the Northwest Territories over the 2001-2002 winter drilling season.

A multi-million dollar project, the new equipment is capable of drilling to total depths of between 4000 and 4600 metres. The Shehtah rigs are optimized for transport, rig up and northern conditions. The two new drill rigs were constructed over the summer and fall in Nisku, Alberta by Wilson Drilling Ltd.

Shehtah will utilize these new rigs in a new business venture with Wilson Drilling Limited to be named the Shehtah/Wilson LLP.

In addition to the two new drill rigs, Shehtah also owns two service rigs used in the NWT and northern Alberta.

Shehtah Drilling is committed to maximize Aboriginal employment. The company expects that the majority of Shehtah rig employees this year will be First Nations members.

In addition to its ownership of Shehtah Drilling Limited, DDC has investments in power generation and transmission, communication services, tourism and hospitality, retail goods and services and traditional arts. DDC is owned by the Denendeh Development Corporation.

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## Northwest Territories: an exciting time for business

Since it became an official territory of Canada in the 1940s, the Northwest Territories (NWT) has never seen such progress and development as it is seeing today. Whether it's technology, natural resource development, environmental protection, health care, education, land claims, business development or self-government – the NWT is moving ahead on all fronts and the rest of the country is watching.

At the forefront of all this activity is an unprecedented expansion of the economy resulting from resource discoveries in diamonds and oil and natural gas.

Development of these resources, as well as the many value-added opportunities, is moving the NWT into a phase of strong and steady economic growth. Couple this with a thriving tourism industry that is surpassing all previous records and it's easy to see why it's an exciting time for business in the NWT.

Despite a downturn in the North American economy last fall and altered federal spending priorities focusing on security and defence measures, the NWT economy, while affected, has remained strong. The Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada, Charles Freedman, noted that the diversification in the NWT will allow the economy to perform better than most in the rest of the country.

Statistics Canada figures show the NWT economy grew by 8.8 percent in 2000, greatly exceeding the next highest growth rate of 5.6 percent and the national rate of 4.6 percent. Last year, the NWT economy grew by almost 12 percent and economists boldly predict a similar figure for 2002.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is focused on creating a self-sufficient territory by maximizing the many opportunities for development. In order to do that, says Premier Stephen Kakfwi, the NWT needs more investment, expertise and partnerships. "We welcome outside business to share in our immense potential. Part of that sharing means ensuring that we are improving the lives of the people who live here. Not only must we be environmentally responsible, but our residents must benefit from economic and social development in their regions."

There are many prime opportunities for investment in the NWT. The GNWT is keen to provide support through business assistance programs for NWT entrepreneurs and through investor programs, services and resources for businesses outside the territory.

On the federal front, the GNWT continues to work on the critical issues of devolution and resource revenue sharing. Faced with territorial versus provincial status, the NWT must defer to the federal government on land and water issues. That means the federal government collects all the royalties. With diamond mines and oil and gas discoveries, royalties represent a significant amount of revenue that could pave the way to self-sufficiency.

The successful conclusion of agreements on devolution and resource revenue sharing will allow the NWT full access to substantial revenues and will give the territory greater control over how development takes place.

The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), Jim Antoine notes that the NWT can only realize its true potential when these issues are finalized. He adds that the GNWT is looking to partner with the federal government on much needed infrastructure, training and development programs. "Overall, this is probably the best shape our economy has ever been in and I can only see it improving," he said.

Oil and gas exploration and development is still very strong in the territory. Expenditures of more than \$250 million per year are expected during the next three years. Past exploration has already revealed more than 1.75 billion barrels of oil and 10 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Estimated reserves are even higher. Seismic and drilling activity is expected to more than double in the Mackenzie Delta this year.

Exploration is centred in the western portion of the territory, along the Mackenzie River valley. The four key areas of activity are the northern Mackenzie Delta region around Inuvik, the central Sahtu area around Norman Wells, the south central region of the Deh Cho around Fort Liard and the southern area of Cameron Hills south of Fort Simpson. Preliminary estimates of exploration spending for 2002 in these areas are Mackenzie Delta, \$250 – \$300 million; Deh Cho, \$50 – \$70 million; Cameron Hills, \$15 – \$25 million and Sahtu, \$10 – \$15 million.

One of the most exciting projects in the NWT is the proposed development of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, a multi-billion dollar project that would see a "stand alone" natural gas line constructed from the Beaufort/Delta to Alberta. Spearheaded by the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, this massive project easily compares to some of the largest construction projects in North America.

The Aboriginal Pipeline Group is working with four of North America's largest oil and gas companies – Shell, Exxon-Mobil, Conoco and Imperial Oil – collectively known as the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group. The two groups recently signed an agreement to further the project. Various environmental and socioeconomic





# A Northern mainstay – mineral and metal mining

Mining is one of the most important sectors of the NWT economy, even more so now that diamonds have been added to the roster. While gold mining has taken the lead since the 1930s, there are also known reserves of precious and base metals such as zinc, lead, copper, silver, barium, tungsten, uranium and iron.

Today, the NWT has two producing gold mines, both owned by Miramar Mining Corporation. Con Mine has produced over 5.5 million ounces of gold since the pouring of its first brick in 1938. Giant Mine has produced in excess of 7.1 million ounces. Production from both mines in 2000 was 122,000 ounces of gold.

In the July to September period last year, the two mines produced 32,000 ounces of gold at a cost of US \$248 per ounce, generating \$1.6 million for the company. While gold prices have still not cracked the US \$300 per ounce ceiling, they have been as high as US \$292 per ounce. The price of gold continues to play a critical role in the expected life span of these mines. RWED Deputy Minister Bob McLeod says there is significant potential for increased mining activity throughout the western part of the NWT. "There are known reserves of palladium, tantalum, lead, zinc and copper. The area is still relatively unexplored, so it's an attractive target for exploration investment," he adds.

The NWT has one of the largest known tungsten



deposits in North America. Owned by North American Tungsten, the Cantung deposit is located in the Deh Cho region and the Matung deposit is 170 km northwest of Cantung in the Sahlu region.

An operating mine in the early 1960s, Cantung closed its operations in 1986, due to the advent of low priced Chinese tungsten on the market. Cantung has proven and probable reserves of 1.27 million tonnes, which translates into three to four years of production. As Chinese reserves are depleting, the price of tungsten has increased and the economics of reopening the mine are more attractive. It is expected to be operational in early 2002.

The Matung property, straddling the Yukon-NWT border, will remain in reserve for the time being. It is known to host approximately nine percent of the world's tungsten deposits. The extractable reserves are estimated to be 6.1 million tonnes.

Canadian Zinc Corporation is conducting additional exploration drilling on its Prairie Creek property in the Deh Cho region. Depending on the results and the price of zinc, the company would like to open the Prairie Creek Mine in the next few years. The mine infrastructure was established several years ago under the name of Cadillac Mine, but was never put into production. The Prairie Creek deposit is known to be

one of the highest grade lead-zinc deposits in the NWT.

Another lead-zinc deposit located in the Sahlu region is Howard's Pass. It remains the world's largest undeveloped zinc deposit, containing drill-indicated reserves of 113.4 tonnes, plus additional inferred reserves of 362.9 million tonnes. Lack of infrastructure and metallurgical complexity has caused this deposit to remain undeveloped. It is hoped, however, that with development of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline in the near future, the economics of accessing this area will improve.

"Mining is still one of the most important sectors in our economy because it creates the most jobs and it's the largest part of our gross domestic product," says McLeod. "It's been a cornerstone of the NWT economy and will continue to be for many years to come."

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## NWT tourism industry is thriving

Tourism is the second largest private industry in the NWT and a key economic sector, as it represents the best long-term economic potential for small and large communities. Last year, 35,000 people visited the Northwest Territories, spending just over \$30 million. The main attractions are hunting, fishing and Aurora viewing. While hunters account for only four percent of the visitors, they contribute 30 percent of the overall spending.

Current trends in the tourism industry are towards adventure and cultural tourism. Winter vacations to view the Aurora Borealis are very popular with Japanese visitors, who represent a major portion of the NWT market. McLeod says Japanese tourism operators have indicated that the Aurora isn't a fad. "It's an icon that will be an attraction for a long time. Many Japanese tours are now placing a primary focus on visiting the north to see the Aurora, with secondary stopovers in the Banff area. Previously, it had been

the other way around." Statistics show that Japanese visitors to the NWT now exceed visitors from the United States.

More and more summer visitors are travelling by road, and camping or travelling with RVs. The bulk of the highway system from Alberta to Yellowknife is now paved, so the numbers are expected to increase. The territorial government is implementing a new highway investment strategy aimed at improving roads throughout the NWT.

Last year, the territorial government contributed \$900,000 to tourism. The Canadian Tourism Commission matched the grant to make a total of \$1.8 million. This injection of funds will allow the NWT Arctic Tourism Association to move ahead with a new tourism strategy and the expectation is that the industry will only improve.

According to the Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), Bob McLeod, the year 2002 was forecast to be the best year yet for tourism in the NWT. "Despite the affect that September 11 has had on tourism worldwide, we expect to maintain and increase our tourism figures. We've always maintained that the tourism sector has the best long-term potential for the NWT. It assists in developing a market for arts and crafts producers and generates more revenue than all our renewable resource industries combined."

Renewable and traditional resources comprise a small portion of the territory's economy, but are very important sectors in the smaller communities. They include activities such as forestry, trapping, fishing, hunting and the production of arts and crafts.

RWED Deputy Minister Bob McLeod explains that traditional activities are very important to people of the NWT. "They represent a way of life and it's important to our government that northerners have a choice in how they make a living. We try to keep a balance between the wage and traditional economies."

Fishing and hunting are two traditional activities that more than half the population regularly engages in on a full or part-time basis. The estimated value generated annually in country foods is \$30 million.

Trapping is another traditional activity that remained a major source of income for many territorial residents well into the 1960s. There was a dramatic decline in the 1980s due to the anti-fur movement, but fur prices have improved due to changing fashion trends. The GNWT has several programs to assist trappers, including school programs to encourage young people. McLeod notes that NWT fur is considered to be the best in the world because it is thicker, plusher and more durable. The NWT is also a world



leader in the use of humane trapping devices. "We want to continue to work with trappers to maintain the standards we've achieved," he adds.

A natural offshoot of the fur business is fashion design. Two northern companies, Dene Fur Clouds in Fort Providence and Nats'enlu in Fort Simpson, create high quality garments made of fur. Some of the most popular items are hats and scarves of sheared beaver.

Arts and crafts have historically played a significant role in the northern economy. Moccasins and moosehide jackets, tuftings, paintings, carvings and jewellery are just some of the prized items that attract tourists. Many government programs are available to assist northerners in pursuing artistic and cultural activities.

Manufacturing is a small but growing industry. The Northern Manufacturers' Association actively promotes the development of manufacturing in the north and assists members in publicizing and marketing their products.

Forestry in the NWT has always been community-based and consisted of smaller operations. Although forest reserves are considerable, there has been a recent decline in activity. Access can be difficult and the lure of high paying oil, gas and diamond related jobs have further curbed interest. The government is currently working on the access issue and expects to continue developing the forestry industry.

Commercial wildlife harvesting exists on a very small scale, along with commercial fishing and agriculture. Products are largely for local consumption.

The Northwest Territories is coming of age, continuing to show impressive growth and potential. It has attracted the attention of the nation and the world, as it goes about its business. Combined with a worldly political maturity, the economy of the Northwest Territories has never looked brighter.



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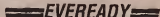
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# Visit Wemindji First Nation for an unforgettable holiday

by Heather Andrews Miller

The dark days of winter give Canadians an excellent opportunity to plan upcoming vacations. The picturesque community of the Wemindji Cree Nation in Quebec offers unique holiday experiences all year long for anyone seeking the peace and tranquility of nature in a traditional setting.

Located along the east coast of James Bay, Wemindji is one of nine Cree communities located in remote northern Quebec. The progressive little settlement has a current population of 1100 residents but has all the services of a much bigger urban area. "We have elementary and high school, daycare, adult education, a fire department, police services and social services. Wemindji is a unique community that your readers must experience for themselves," says recreation director Brian Oterreyes.

Wemindji's present location was established in the summer of 1959 when the community moved from Old Factory, about 25 km south of the present location. "It was originally established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1685 as a small fur trading post," explains Oterreyes. Every year in mid-July an annual visit to the old location features traditional cultural activities, feasting and dancing, and lasts for a week, he says. Included in the activities is a canoe expedition where youth travel the historic route from the headwaters of the Old Factory River which James Bay Cree have travelled for ages. "The young people are accompanied by Elders, and it's always a much-enjoyed and meaningful journey," he says. A music festival, featuring local bands as well as local and regional talent, and bike and running marathons round out the scheduled summer activities.

The community is a remarkable place to visit and live. "You will find a variety of sporting facilities such as the Fitness Centre, the Mawabou Gardens Arena, a baseball field, a gymnasium and many exciting hiking trails," says Oterreyes. The community hall is the prime location for festivities and events such as weddings, meetings, concerts, workshops and conferences.

Wemindji is accessible by a permanent road that opened in September 1995. This road connects to the famous James Bay Highway and leads to the Matagami and LaGrande #2 Road at Km 518, giving the community access to towns, cities and villages to the south, he says. "We are located some 1200 kilometres from Montreal, and that remoteness and distance from the busy everyday urban life are part of our appeal."

Other interesting attractions in the area include the Paint Hills Islands where visitors are treated to sightings of seals, beluga whales and an occasional polar bear. "Nearby Paint Hills Lake is an excellent fishing spot for monstrous pike, having produced some world-class specimens," adds Oterreyes. Twin Islands are many kilometres offshore, and are very remote. "They are for the extreme adventurer only," he cautions. The trip to the islands takes over two hours by boat and can be dangerous, but once visitors arrive, they are treated to virgin sub-arctic fauna and flora beyond their wildest dreams. A year-round population of polar bears numbers between 20 and 40 animals.

More accessible but just as beautiful is Yasinski Lake. "This is a huge lake and it's renowned for its world-class walleye fishing. There are picnic and campground facilities and a boat launch," he says.

Located right in Wemindji on the shores of the mighty Maquatua River is the spacious 12-room Maquatua Inn. "All the comforts of home are available, from television, telephone, showers and a restaurant in the hotel as well. The reception staff is fully trained and has all the local information and maps required for your stay in the region," he says.

At the end of each summer Wemindji hosts teams from other communities in a tournament to determine the elite of James Bay volleyball, both male and female. "Actually, we have a lot of tournaments throughout the year, with our busiest time being between January and April," says Oterreyes. "We host four hockey and broomball tournaments, two minor and two senior. This is a highlight for the

whole area, and teams come from other communities to compete," he says.

Wemindji is governed by Chief Reggie Mark and five councillors. One of the community's greatest accomplishments has been the establishment of the Wemindji Exploration Services Inc. in 1996 by the Cree Nation of Wemindji. The project was an effort to set-up a training program in Prospecting and Advance Mineral Exploration for local people. To date several important mineral discoveries of copper, gold, silver, zinc and lead have been made.

"All in all, we have a very progressive and exciting community here and we have many more good things to look forward to in the future," concludes Oterreyes.



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## New economic development funds to boost employment

Kete Whii Limited, co-owned by Dogrib Trustco, Deton/Cho Corporation and Densoine Corporation, is a newly incorporated company that has obtained two nine-year contracts from BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. to maintain the road and haul ore from the Misery satellite pit to the Ekati processing plant. The contracts have an estimated value of \$45 million.

"Kete Whii Limited has worked hard to create opportunities in the NWT. Today's funding announcement means that 22 jobs will be created. First Nation members of Rae-Edzo, Wha Ti, Gameti, Wekweti, Dettah, N'dilo and Lutsel K'e will have the first opportunity for employment on those jobs," said Grand Chief Joe Rabesca (Dogrib Treaty 11), Chair of Kete Whii Limited.

"A project of this magnitude has job creation and economic benefits for the community both today and in years to come," said DIAND Minister Robert Nault. "The Government of Canada is committed to supporting opportunities such as this in order to enhance the economic development and self-sufficiency of First Nations communities."

"Today's funding announcement supports the federal government's commitment to promote strong, self-sufficient Aboriginal and northern communities. The project also has the potential to develop skills in community members that they will be able to use on other projects," said Ethel Blondin-Andrew, MP for Western Arctic.

The funding for the project, provided by the DIAND's Resource Acquisition Initiative, will be used to purchase and mobilize equipment, establish a maintenance shop at the BHP Misery Lake mine, and train staff.

There will be 22 jobs created by this project including two management positions, two trades positions, six heavy equipment operators and 14 drivers. These jobs will go to members of the communities of Rae-Edzo, Wha Ti, Gameti, Wekweti, Dettah, N'dilo and Lutsel K'e.

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## under the northern sky

## Dealing with the cold

by Xavier Kataquapit

I went out for a walk today with a friend of mine and got my first blast of freezing winter weather. We were both prepared for the weather and were bundled up in warm winter jackets, an extra layer of clothes, toques, mitts and heavy boots. It has always been natural for me to prepare for the cold and sometimes it seems that I get carried away. When I first came to live in the south, my friends found it strange that, in addition to winter, in the spring and fall I wore an extra pair of socks and long underwear.

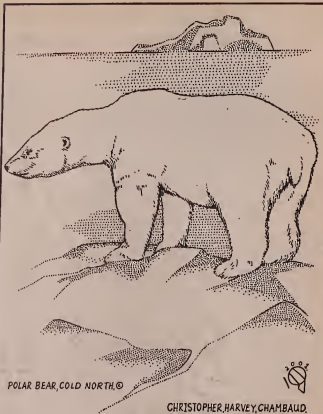
I developed this need to stay warm from living in extreme cold weather up north in my home community of Attawapiskat on the James Bay coast. Winter is a big deal in my remote home community. The snow and ice bring a new found freedom to travel and move about more freely. In the summer it is harder to travel over lakes, rivers and through muskeg.

My experience of winter in Attawapiskat had to do with dressing from head to foot in an armour of clothes. During the coldest months we wore many layers of clothes to keep ourselves warm. Most people in the community had big families and that meant that we shared a lot of hand-me-downs. Still it wasn't easy for our parents to keep us in clothes and boots because we were all growing so fast.

In our home, my mother also spent a lot of time making winter clothing for our big family. Mom used the skin of caribou or moose and lined it with fox, beaver or mink fur to make hats for everyone, mitts for the younger children and fingered gloves for dad and the older children.

Dad and other trappers like him must have had to deal with a lot of cold weather over their lives. He stockpiled large amounts of firewood in the fall and made sure that in the winter our house always had a full log bin for the wood stove. The wood stove was our primary source of heat. Early every morning he stoked the remaining coals to build a new fire. By sunrise the house was unbearably hot and everyone was motivated to get out of bed. When we travelled in the early spring over the snow for goose hunting we stayed in canvas prospector tents in cold weather. Dad heated the tent the same way every morning and in the evenings with a small tin wood stove. I remember that little stove taking the chill out of the tent and at times glowing red hot.

Winter weather in the far north was enjoyable for me but at the same time I was well aware of the danger in the cold. I learned at an early age never to lose my respect for the cold. I remember my father telling me when I first started riding



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# Looking at weather from a Native point of view

by Xavier Kataquapit

The weather is an important part of life to my people, the Cree on the James Bay coast. Many of the Elders have a great understanding of changes in the weather. This is due to the fact that during their early lives they lived a traditional life out on the land and had to deal with their environment on a daily basis. It was a matter of survival to have a good knowledge of extreme weather conditions in order to be able to prepare for them.

A good knowledge of the weather can also mean the difference between a good or bad hunt. There are many hunters and trappers in the community and each time they leave, forecasting the weather for the near future determines whether or not one should leave to head out on the land. Good or bad weather also determines what animals will do and where they will go.

Many people I know who still venture out on the land keep a close eye on different signs that forecast the weather. Halos around the sun and the moon can signal cold weather for the next few days and active northern lights that dance across the sky mean stronger winds in the near future. Fire can also provide a clue as to what weather will take place in the near future. If the base of a fire is burning white it means cold weather and if it is red then it will be warmer.

I learned about these methods of predicting the weather from my parents, Elders in my community and others who have a good knowledge of life on the land. It seems that when I was growing up the only way to learn about my people was outside of school.

Thankfully, there are those who want to introduce

the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of First Nation people to young students. The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre, based in Timmins, has produced a new book for educators to teach the knowledge and experiences of the Cree and Oji-Cree of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area. It is a unique book, titled *Weather, It's Right Or Not* and was developed by Jim Hollander, Curriculum Writer and Coordinator for the Cultural Centre. The book features the science of climate change. It provides examples of predicting the weather from a First Nation point of view and the ways Native people dealt with changes in the climate.

This will be good for young students who do not have as many opportunities to live on the land

as our parents and grandparents once did. The new book is an outline for teachers to follow and teaches students about the six seasons of the Cree and Oji-

Cree people. These seasons are spring (See-Kwan), Break-up (Mee-Noh-S-Kah-Mee-N),

Summer (Nee-Peh-N), Fall (Tah-Kwa-Kah-N), Freeze-up (Mee-Kee-Ska-Ow) and Winter (Pee-Poh-N). It also provides examples of predicting the weather using traditional knowledge and encourages students to learn more from Elders and others in the community.

The teacher resource is a great teaching tool for any school and is designed to be adapted to any curriculum or school. It was created to meet provincial standards with the aim of teaching the weather using the traditional knowledge of the Cree and Oji-Cree people in addition to scientific facts about climate change. The book was created for the NAN area but is also available for non-Native schools and educators who can use this resource to introduce their students to the Native culture.

It is nice to know that there are people who are actively working to teach our young people the accumulated knowledge of my people. It is good to see this knowledge being used to keep our students aware of their Native heritage.



By Bruce

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# The Healing Journey

## Ottawa earmarks funding for Head Start and FAS awareness

by Ennis Morris

In a move that federal Finance Minister Paul Martin says is designed to ensure "Aboriginal children receive the best possible start in life," Ottawa has promised to deliver almost \$200 million to help deal with the escalating cases of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) in Aboriginal communities across Canada. The recent announcement said that the money would be spent helping Native communities by improving such things as day care and special education services for both adults and children. Martin said that Aboriginal children will be targeted for increased awareness programs about alcohol and its serious side effects. In making his announcement, Martin told the House of Commons that, "it is, indeed, the quality of life of children today that will lead the First Nations to a better future tomorrow. We will (also) do more to support children facing learning challenges in school."

The announcement of the new cash injection into what is considered to be one of the most serious health hazards facing Aboriginal peoples today comes despite the government's plan to overhaul the \$7 billion a year currently being spent on

Canada's 12 million Aboriginal citizens. Martin said the health and welfare of the nation's Aboriginal children was too important to ignore.

"The early years in children's lives are critical to their growth and wellbeing and lay the foundation for their learning, work and other endeavours," Finance Minister Martin told the House, adding that the expenditures would be monitored to "ensure that these investments are making a difference in the lives of children."

The total package, which adds up to \$185 million, will be spent over a two year period. The largest share of the money, \$100 million, will be directed toward Head Start, a federally-sponsored program that helps prepare young Aboriginal children for school by providing them with self-esteem styled programs that also stimulate the desire to learn and provide important information about the significance of maintaining good health through a healthy, balanced diet. Part of the \$100 million will also be directed toward providing better child care services in First Nation communities.

About \$60 million of the money will address the special needs of Native children living on reserves in Canada. This money will target areas of special need and will include programs to deal with emotional and physical problems as well as FAS effects.

Martin said the remaining \$25 million would be used to strengthen the resolve to bring an end to preventable illness such as FAS. Martin told the House that funding for FAS prevention and awareness would increase dramatically by 2003.

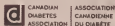


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# Kamloops Church first to close over lawsuits

by John Copley

I kind of feel sorry for Bishop Jim Cruickshank, head of the Anglican Diocese of Cariboo. He's been forced to close the Diocese, which represents the 17 Anglican churches that are spread out across British Columbia's interior valley region.

"I'll never forget that moment as long as I live," Cruickshank told *National Post* writer Richard Foot in an interview earlier this month. He was referring to the day six years ago when a document arrived from Floyd Mowatt, a Gitksan Indian and a former residential school student at the Anglican-run St. George's Indian Residential School in Kamloops. The document would change the church forever—in fact, it was the first straw that led toward the eventual closure this past New Year's Eve. Bishop Cruickshank has never molested anyone. He's an honest man with a good heart. It was his predecessors and some of their school employees who committed the atrocities the church is obligated to pay for today.

The bishop says he blames government, not Mowatt and others who have come forward with claims against the church. He says he's lost faith in the government and suggests that they should pay the claims. He says the church does good in the community and that they do have many proven programs to help Aboriginal people overcome the past and get on with the future. But none of that will ever change what happened to Native children during the residential school days, and like it or not the church and the state are both responsible for any legal liability that comes forth as a result of the maligned brutality that both showed as they callously went about their business of integrating Native children into white society.

"You have no idea how much pain this has caused," Cruickshank told Foot. "To be told your church abused little children, and now it faces bankruptcy..."

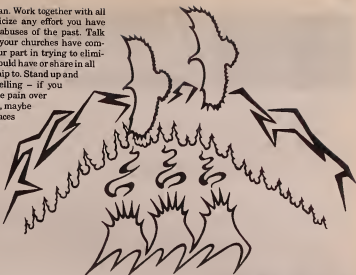
Tell that to the those young Native children who suffered every type of abusive situation imaginable, and some that are not. The church knew that one day those little children would grow up to be adults, they just thought life would continue on, as it always has in the church. But though they were once a key voice with political decision-makers, the church has lost many powers over the years and no longer has the influence it once had—at least not in Canada. The Kamloops Diocese is not the only group feeling the pressure of litigation from former residential school students. In fact, from the west coast to the Ontario/Manitoba boundary, where most of the government sanctioned, church-administrated schools once operated, the line-ups to the courthouse are long. So far more than 8,000 suits have been filed, most name the federal government and one of either the Anglican, United, Presbyterian or Roman Catholic churches as the parties responsible for the abuse the plaintiffs are seeking compensation for.

The government has talked with the churches over the past year but they are not willing to cough up the entire payroll.

The government hasn't raised a finger to help prevent the churches from going under. The public, in general, hasn't said much about the situation—probably because Canadians are much too embarrassed to get involved. Let's face it—just what has the church done over the years to get rid of the paedophiles and child abusers in their midst? It would appear that not much has been done and if it has, it has been unsuccessful. Hardly a week passes that an article doesn't appear in the major dailies telling of yet another priest, another reverend, another religious father accused of child abuse. Is the church a haven for such people? Is there no way to rid ourselves of them?

It's difficult to imagine how the church can expound the word of God and preach the ten commandments when it has a hard time following the simplest of guidelines—honouring your neighbour and his children. Teaching is one thing, torturing to get the point across is something else. If you want Canadians and the Canadian government to come to your rescue, go out and do the right thing. Admit your guilt. Get rid of whatever it is that allows paedophiles and those like them to penetrate your organizations. Don't continue to hide in the corner, coming out only to criticize government when it pleases you or when you have

gone broke. Come clean. Work together with all denominations. Publicize any effort you have made to rectify the abuses of the past. Talk about the injustices your churches have committed and admit your part in trying to eliminate a people so you could have or share in all they claimed ownership to. Stand up and be heard. Stop snivelling—if you think you've got some pain over these law suits—well, maybe you'd like to change places with those who suffered their pains at the hands of your clergy and their staff during those barbaric days and frightening nights at the local residential school.



Floyd Mowatt. ©



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## Northwest Territories, Continued from page 24

impact studies have been conducted. The Producers Group is expected to file a final application for regulatory approval with the National Energy Board in 2003.

According to Chuck Parker, Assistant Deputy Minister of Mackenzie Valley Development Planning with the GNWT, there are many signs of certainty on moving forward with the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project. In the meantime, Parker tries to stay several steps ahead of oil and gas activities, anticipating the needs of northerners and businesses alike. "We still have many areas of preparation in order to maximize the benefits of the exploration phase, and from the eventual construction and operation of the pipeline project."

Parker is referring to the creation of business opportunities, as well as training and employment opportunities. "There is a significant increase in the equity participation of northern groups in business ventures," says Parker. Two examples are Nahendeh Land and Environment, which is a joint venture between the Fort Liard band and Alpine Environmental, and a company called Dene Directional, which is jointly owned by the Hay River Band and several southern service companies.

"There are still plenty of opportunities for southern companies interested in working with northern groups, as long as they are committed to developing northern

skills and infrastructure in the process," he adds. "Last year, we ran a very successful rig hand training course and certified 84 people to work as floorhands. We're also maximizing northern employment by training people for smaller businesses in the service sector. The GNWT has committed to investing over \$1 million in training northerners."

According to Bob McLeod, the Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), the outlook for the NWT in oil and gas sector remains very positive. This, despite the events of September 11, which had some effect on the NWT. "While the price of natural gas and oil has gone down in the short-term, the long-term prospects are still as exciting as last year," says McLeod. "The U.S. is still using more natural gas and oil than they are finding and even with lower gas prices a Mackenzie Valley pipeline is still feasible."

Canadian petroleum exports to the United States have risen 300 percent since 1985 and the gas market is expected to grow by over 40 percent in the next decade. With market trends and forecasts showing an ongoing increase in the demand for oil and natural gas in North America, there will continue to be a strong focus on the energy potential in the NWT.

Diamonds have certainly taken the spotlight since they were first discovered in the NWT in 1891. A decade later, the NWT now has one producing diamond mine, with several more expected to open in the next ten years. RWED Minister Jim Antoine notes that the diamond sector is one of the most exciting aspects of the NWT economy. "As North America's diamond capital, we have increased awareness of the territory and our product. NWT diamonds could soon account for more than 10 percent of the global diamond production, with 12.5 percent of the value. This could make us the third highest producer by value in the world."

The development of secondary industries in the diamond sector has been actively supported by the GNWT through the development of training programs, occupational standards, marketing programs and business incentives.

Value-added opportunities to support business development and employment are available in areas such as sorting, marketing and selling of rough; gem cutting and polishing; jewellery making; tourism; and



Illustration: Patricia C.

Illustration: Patricia C.

industrial applications.

"Secondary industries in the diamond sector are doing very well," says McLeod. "We now have three diamond manufacturing facilities in the Northwest Territories: Detoncho Diamond Inc., Arslanian Cutting Works (NWT) Ltd., and Sirius Diamonds NWT. Two of those - Detoncho and Arslanian - are very successful Aboriginal joint ventures." Between the combined facilities, approximately 80 diamond cutting jobs have been created, with an additional 20-25 support positions.

To maximize marketing potential, the GNWT has established a unique diamond certification program. Any diamond certified as a "CANADIAN ARCTIC™" diamond is a natural diamond mined, cut and polished in the Northwest Territories. This allows buyers to trust that they are purchasing a genuine article of distinction and quality. To date, more than 4600 diamonds have been certified.

The government is also working on a licensing system and standards for NWT diamond manufacturers. In addition, a program is underway to market NWT diamonds through national and international retailers.

In a mere decade, the Northwest Territories is well on its way to establishing itself as the diamond capital of North America.

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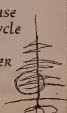
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# Focus on Literacy

## Family Literacy Day brings home the importance of reading and writing

Literacy is the foundation of lifelong learning and starts at home at an early age. That's the message that the Alberta Association for Adult Literacy (AAAL) and the Literacy Coordinators of Alberta (LCA) will be getting out on Canada's third annual Family Literacy Day, sponsored by ABC Canada and Honda Canada, on Saturday, January 27.

To recognize Family Literacy Day, AAAL and LCA are encouraging families to read with their children or grandchildren for 15 to 20 minutes every day - however, this is difficult for people struggling with low literacy skills. "As many as one in three adults in Alberta have trouble dealing with the printed material they face every day, and one in seven Albertans are at the lowest literacy level," says Candice Jackson, Executive Director of LCA.

"Many parents who struggle with low literacy skills become involved in literacy programs so that they are able to read a bedtime story to their children or grandchildren," says Ida Tober, Manager of the Literacy Help Line of Alberta. "Story time is more than reading. It is a time for sharing, talking, and spending time with each other."

AAAL is a non-profit provincial literacy coalition which links approximately 450 members involved in adult literacy and basic education and believes that all adult Albertans must have the opportunity to develop the literacy skills they need to lead satisfying and productive lives in the community. LCA believes that learning is for life and is dedicated to enhancing literacy skills in Alberta by providing professional development, resources, training and support for literacy coordinators.

## Terra Assoc. addresses teen parents and family literacy

Terra Association is a creative, adaptive and dynamic agency that responds to the issues and challenges of teen pregnancy. Terra's holistic approach to the issues and challenges enhances the self-worth and dignity of each individual. Using this philosophy, Terra has undertaken a family literacy initiative, to offer a new approach to strengthening stronger relationships between teen parents and their children.

The initiative, which began in 1998, has involved three grants from The National Literacy Secretariat. This funding, has allowed Terra to create a Teen Parent Family Literacy Needs Assessment; a 5 minute video entitled, Read to Your Baby; an Evaluation document of 10 piloted family literacy strategies; as well as another evaluation print document which will be available Fall 2002. (All documents are available through Terra Association). A fourth grant to create program manuals for our favourite family literacy strategies for young parents will begin March 2002.

Family Literacy is based on research that shows that a child's literacy development begins at birth and that the parents are the child's first and most important teachers. Terra's piloted programs focus on helping teen parents provide a literate environment for their children. Young mothers and fathers are given many strategies to help their children experience both oral and written language. Parents, through "hands on," fun activities are given strategies to use with their infants to help them see and hear language used in different ways.

The role that parents play in the development of their children is well documented. Low literacy levels tend to be cyclical in a similar way that poverty, abuse and neglect are often cyclical. The need to break these cycles is critical for many teen parents and their families. Terra is committed to addressing the multiple issues that affect the transfer of low literacy levels from teen parents to their children.



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## Tips for reading with children

- Make reading part of your daily routine.
  - Read for at least 15 minutes every day.
  - Make praise a part of reading.
  - Don't exert pressure or make negative remarks.
  - Whenever possible, let the child decide what you will read.
  - Take turns reading to each other.
  - Ham it up! Use different voices.
  - Keep the story moving. Help with difficult words to maintain the flow.
  - Drop the story if the child is not interested. Move on to something else.
  - Most important, this is a special time for you and your child to spend together.
  - Make it fun and enjoyable for the both of you.
- Literacy... anything is possible!

Family Literacy Day, initiated by ABC Canada in 1999, recognizes that family activities can play an important role by strengthening the language skills of both parents and children.

To learn more about literacy programs in your area, please call the Literacy Help Line of Alberta at 1-800-767-3231, or look in the yellow pages under LEARN.

Your education is the key to providing a brighter future for the First Nations.

Best wishes to all those learning to read, and thank you to all those helping to improve literacy

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## Kids at Kehewin Native Performance start young

by Heather Andrews Miller

Native dancing, oral storytelling, history, and culture are just a few of the many features offered in a unique set of workshops available to Aboriginal people from all over Canada. The Kehewin Native Performance located in Kehewin First Nation near Bonnyville, Alberta plays host to participants, or will take their workshops to other locations.

Children as young as five are introduced to oral history in a four-hour workshop which includes the making of masks. Older youngsters study the oral history and their nation's origin. The ten-to-13-year olds learn about the effects of colonization through theatre and improvisations.

"Communities themselves can get involved by creating their own story line," explains Rosa John, Artistic Director of the Kehewin Native Performers Resource Network. "Or, we can take stories that have come down through the ages, make giant masks, and then perform the traditional story," she says. Other workshops enable participants to learn skills in sewing dance outfits or hoop-making, or they may make drums, congas, shakers and other percussion instruments.

They also learn dancing, singing, and story telling. For example, traditional values and the Medicine Wheel are brought together by Native performance dancers to create a short movement piece, which can be lengthened or shortened depending on the needs of the community where it is being performed. Painting, beadwork and other fine arts activities are available as well.

Rosa and her husband Melvin started the organization in Ontario some eleven years ago when they noticed that their own children, who were attending non-Native schools, experienced frequent misunderstandings between cultures. "We felt that if non-Native Canadians were more culturally aware, we would be able to exist in more peaceful harmony, so we started taking our storytelling into the schools," she explains. Soon word got around about the increased awareness that the performance created, and the requests started coming in. Today they go into both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

With their busy schedule the couple can't possibly respond to all the requests they get for their service, so trainees with two or more years with the company facilitate as well. "The children themselves can pursue their interests, such as set design or the dancing itself. It's an extra opportunity to practice their skills and they work with the set director in the process," she says. Frequently the dance and



CHRISTOPHER HARVEY CHAMBAUD, TRADITIONAL POW-WOW

theatre group takes its shows on the road and to powwows, and have performed all over Canada and the USA as well as travelling to New Zealand, Mexico and Hawaii.

Kehewin Native Performance also hosts an annual youth conference in May at the Kehewin School, where mentors from many fields come in to work with the young people. "We have over 500 kids, mostly from Western Canada, and they get a chance to learn from Native people who have been successful," she says. The conference ends with an activity called a community action plan, where each of the mentors works with a group of 20 or so kids, helping them to explore ways they may improve their communities once they get back home. "Then the kids have to

get up and address the gathering, explaining how they are going to put into effect what they've learned. This is a great confidence booster for them, especially for the shy ones," she says. They are also encouraged to perform any of the interests they've developed, such as story telling or dancing. A powwow and feast is held in conjunction with the conference, with the general public invited to attend.

"We also have a video and music studio here at Kehewin where the kids can produce their own music and videos. We literally make everything we need here, from the music to the dance outfits," she says. Videos have been produced to convince government funders to award grants, or to educate how the power of the youth in the arts is able to bring about positive changes in their community.

The effect on the kids is exciting. "You can see it happening in just a short time, they get in touch with their culture, gain self-confidence, and have a really positive experience," says John. Whether it's in a Native or a non-Native location, the Kehewin Native Performance and Resource Network promises an all-new educational experience for its participants.

"We believe that only through the sharing and understanding of our culture can damaging stereotypes be broken. We also believe that it is through our youth that culture and traditions will once again be seen as an integral and vital part of society," concludes John. "Thanks to our young people's work and dedication, it's becoming a reality."

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# LEGEND

The Careless Mother is provided by the Lac La Ronge Band, Curriculum Resource Unit who are dedicated to providing quality educational resources to all the people of the First Nations.

## The Careless Mother

Collected and illustrated by James Ratt; told by Ida A. Ratt.

A young mother was told again and again not to leave her child outside her teepee when he was crying. But the young mother would not heed the warnings of her elders.

"They know nothing!" she would say to herself.

One day when the child was outside the lodge playing, he began to cry loudly, but the mother ignored him.

The mother was grief stricken but there was nothing she could do. She had not listened to the words of her elders.

However, the wolverine did not escape the wrath of the Great Spirit, Wesuhkechahk. When he heard that the wolverine had violated his eating habits, he caused white hair in the outline of a small child to grow on the back of the animal. The white lines on the back of the wolverine are a reminder of the evil deed carried out by this creature a long time ago.



The cries were heard by a starving wolverine which was lurking nearby in the woods. The brown animal was rarely seen by people and on this day, it attacked and carried off the boy on its back. Later in the forest it ate the poor little child.



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# Resource & Economic Development

## 30 in running for 2002 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction

St. Mary's Construction Co. Ltd. situated in Standoff Alberta, Fort McKay Enterprises Ltd. and Goodfish Lake Development Corp. were among thirty Alberta businesses that were recognized this month as finalists in the 2002 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction. A distinguished judging committee representing a variety of business leaders selected the finalists for this year's awards from entries submitted in 13 categories. Recognized in the Aboriginal Relations category were Alberta Energy Co. Ltd. and Alberta Pacific Forest Industries and Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. was nominated in the Environmental Practices category.

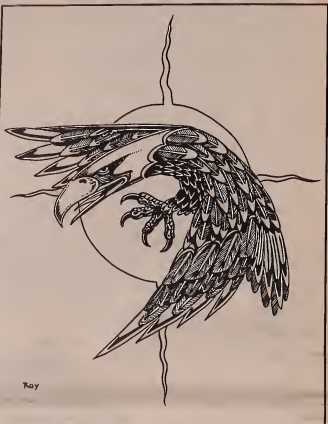
"I would like to thank all of the businesses that took the time to submit entries to the awards program," said Martin West, President of the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. "The field of nominees this year was strong and the judges commented on the difficulty they had in making their final decisions."

"Business in Alberta has been booming despite what we see happening in other regions and our business people are leading the way by developing strong, well-run, growth-oriented businesses. The diversity and quality of the entries in the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction is always impressive. The entries reflect the spirit to succeed which prompts most people to enter the business world," West added.

The Alberta Business Awards of Distinction recognize excellence in the following categories: Small Business, Strategic Partnering, Learning in the Workplace, Safety in the Workplace, Export, e-Business, Environmental Practices, Youth Employment, Young Entrepreneur, Agrivalue New Venture, Aboriginal Relations, Marketing, First Nation's-owned Business and Outstanding Achievement. As well, Alberta's future economic generators – today's youth – are recognized with the Young Entrepreneur Award of Distinction.

The Awards are hosted by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce in association with numerous corporate sponsors. "All of these sponsors in their own right are business leaders. We are very fortunate to have them support the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction," said West.

Major sponsors include: Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative, CIBC,



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A separate award for tomorrow's entrepreneurs from Junior Achievement's Company Program is also presented by CMA – Alberta and the Alberta Chambers of Commerce – the Young Entrepreneurs Award of Distinction.

The awards will be presented at a gala banquet, February 28, 2002 at the TELUS Convention Centre in Calgary. Entry information for the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction is online at [www.abchamber.ab.ca](http://www.abchamber.ab.ca).

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# Moosemeat: a chip off the old block

by Xavier Kataquapit

Recently I was fortunate to receive some moose meat from my cousin Ron. I remembered several ways that my mom, Susan had prepared moose back home in Attawapiskat when I was young. The other day I tried one of mom's recipes and cut up some moose meat and fried it for dinner. I was surprised at the simplicity of the recipe and was even amazed at the fact that it turned out the same as what mom made. I really enjoy a meal with traditional food because it brings back a lot of good memories of home and life up north on the James Bay coast. Many First Nation people still enjoy having a traditional meal with wild meat even though they live away from their remote homes. All the Native people I know who live here in the south jump at the chance to have a meal of traditional moose, goose, caribou or fish.

It was good to have the smell of fried moose meat in the house as I had not had this meal for a long time. The sense of smell is one of the major triggers that help us recall our memories. The smell of moose meat brought me back to my childhood and memories of moose hunting and meals with the family at home and on the land.

The meal was also special in that a great deal of effort and adventure had to take place in order to bring this food to our table. In the fall during the hunting season, hunters and trappers spend days and even weeks searching for food to bring back to their families. Often these hunters have to deal with cold and wet weather and if they are travelling north on the bay they also face the danger of running their freighter canoes on the open ocean. When the hunters returned we listened to their stories around the dinner table as we happily ate our moose or goose.

Many Cree people enjoy moose most when it is fried or cooked in a stew. You have to remember that most of the time we prepared a moose meal from frozen meat. I have memories of watching my mom shave the frozen moose meat with an axe as it was the only efficient way to get supper ready quickly for our large family. She did this so that any of the moose that was not cut could be put back in the freezer as it had not thawed and of course because it was easy to fry. When I took



the axe to my frozen piece of moose meat to shave off bits to be fried I managed to surprise my southern non-Native friends who do not consider the axe as a kitchen utensil. Anyway after some chipping away with the axe I ended up with a pan full of moose meat.

I followed my mom's recipe for preparing moose. I cooked it on high heat with lots of onions to help soften the wild taste. I then added a little water and later a bit of flour. In a short while my moose meat meal was ready and I served it with mashed potatoes. Moose served in this simple fashion is delicious to us Cree and my non-Native friends seemed to enjoy it also. It is even more special when I stop to think that this wonderful meal originated near my home of Attawapiskat along the shores of the great James Bay.

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with your children



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# Protecting Mother Earth



## Sumas Band faces environmental disaster

by Brian Savage

Chief Beatrice Silver of the 250-member Sumas First Nation faces the fight of her life as her band struggles with the impact of environmental pollution of their land.

"The first duty of any chief is to protect the health and safety of band members," says Chief Silver. "Here we have a situation where the previous chief negotiated and signed a deal which has put the health and safety of our nation and our neighbours at risk. This is completely unacceptable." The chief has demanded a full investigation by the government into the problem.

"We've had testing done on the ground water and it doesn't look good," explained the chief. "The soil tested very badly." The readings, undertaken by GeoViro Engineering, revealed hydrocarbon levels of 17,200 ppm; normal readings are usually below 100 ppm. Chromium results were 60 ppm and normal results should be 2 ppm. Tests were being done on other heavy metals as well. Arsenic was also found.

"The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is on board with us," says the chief, "so that should be enough to tell the public it's very serious." So far there has been no action to demands to clean the mess up from the company involved, Sumas Environmental Services.

"They were supposed to do soil remediation and it appears no or very little remediation was done, so there's been much leaching and run off. They were bringing in sludge and so on from gas stations and were supposed to clean it so well that it could be used for landfill. However, to date no soil ever left the grounds once it was dumped there."

The run off takes the pollution directly into Marshall Creek, source of the drinking water for the band. The band has been using bottled water since October.

"I came on board in May with a new council," explains Chief Silver, "and we've had many concerns

and reports from our members about this site so one of my priorities was to look into it and this is what is unfolding. It's very bad for our people."

According to the chief, Indian Affairs knows as much and more about what is going on. "They told us they would not meet officially with us or our lawyers until they have all their ducks in a row," observes Chief Silver, who asks when that might happen. The government department is now demanding deeper tests and reviews of the test results already carried out.

The impact on the people has been tremendous, says the chief, with many concerned about possible illnesses. "The situation is still unfolding and as it unfolds, it gets more and more serious."

Wildlife has also been affected, says the chief, noting a decrease in frogs and salamanders and fish. "It's no secret that the waste is running into our feeder creek," says the chief. "That's why the DFO is on board, after they saw the test results and actually saw what's happening at the site."

"My concern," adds the chief, "is that the Department of Indian Affairs has an obligation to help the people in any way they can because they did sign an agreement in the beginning with that company and the former council."

Other tests on the environment and forests will be carried out with federal agencies, says the chief, to determine fully the impact of the pollution. "They cut all our trees down and the ones that are left are dying," observes the chief. She believes that agencies such as Environment Canada were involved initially. And although they had requirements in place when they signed the agreement she says that little monitoring occurred.

Records show that Sumas Environmental paid the band \$600,000 since 1995. The new chief had difficulty obtaining a copy of the agreement between the

band and the company, she says. "That was all kept from me until I went barreling ahead with the tests through the Sto:lo Nation. That got the ball rolling."

"Right now it's at a standstill as the contamination seeps further and further, because the company still has tons of waste piled up on our mountain side, ready to fall at any moment. It's pretty wet here right now. It keeps us awake many nights." The polluted soil sits on an acreage, which has a steep 60-degree incline and one area, described as Lot 49, was not supposed to be included as a dump site.

The chief is frustrated at the pace of things and the lawsuit that is developing while at the same time the health threat and potential environmental disaster hangs over the band.

"It's the usual one step at a time," complains the chief. "We have to give them time to get out; we have to give them time to show they're attempting to clean up and we have to wait and see if the company will pay for damages."

So far, says the chief, the polluted soil is still there, still leaching into Marshall Creek. "I know we're facing a huge clean up," says the chief, "and we can't do anything till we get the company out of there."

What mystifies and angers the chief is the callous disregard that the parties involved showed towards the community. "It appears to us that they did not care that people were going to be hurt, their health damaged."



CHRISTOPHER HARVEY CHAMBAUD

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## Program promotes natural resource opportunities in Northern Saskatchewan

by Mike Newman, Natural Resources Canada

Northern Saskatchewan communities will be gaining new business and training opportunities based on their local natural resources, thanks to the Resource Opportunities for Northern Saskatchewan Communities pilot program.

Rick Laliberte, MP for Churchill River, recently announced Government of Canada funding of \$899,000 through this program for 18 projects. He made this announcement on behalf of Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and Ron J. Duhamel, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification).

With support from the Province of Saskatchewan, Aboriginal organizations, industry and communities themselves, the total investment in these projects comes to nearly \$2 million. Resources and expertise will also be provided by existing programs, such as NRCan's Sustainable Communities Initiative. NRCan's Canadian Forest Service liaison staff in Prince Albert will ensure on-site coordination of the pilot program.

"This program is going to help the local residents, many of whom are Aboriginal, gain additional skills and knowledge they need to participate in the sustainable development of natural resources," said Michael Newman, the NRCan program coordinator in Prince Albert.

To qualify for funding, the projects had to involve partnerships and community support and demonstrate local benefits through the sustainable use of natural resources.

Each of these projects has the potential to generate long-term employment. For example, the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan in the Cumberland/Creighton and La Ronge regions is looking into maximizing local benefits from sustainable forest development opportunities for its people. In another project, the Prince Albert Grand Council is exploring the potential for small sawmills to increase the use of local lumber and provide employment.

Two of the projects focus on marketing non-timber forest products such as conifer boughs, moss, sap products, berries, mushrooms and medicinal plants. Other projects involve assessing sources of alternative energy, determining the skills required for participation in oil sands job opportunities, developing small business management training, and using geographic information systems technology for land-use planning and community development.

We take this opportunity to salute  
our Nation's Northern Region  
~ a land of challenge and opportunity



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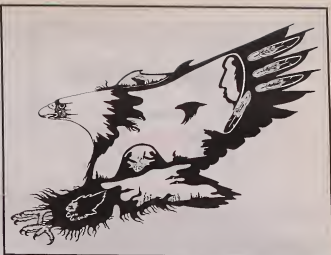
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